

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.]

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No. 210.—VOL. 8.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1859.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED, 3½D.

"EARTHQUAKES—AS USUAL."

THIS famous entry in the Indian journal of Lady Sale, may be happily applied in a political sense to the state of the country. Here we are in a crisis once more, with a dissolution impending, and with darkness brooding over the future of the land. We have had five separate administrations during the last ten years; and we are to expect, it seems, a sixth before the summer is over. Surely the country ought to make up its mind how much longer it will stand this kind of thing, and what it expects if all social reforms and all practical legislation are thrust aside in this manner. This is not a party question, but a question between the whole country and its parliamentary institutions—a question on the solution of which the stability of our whole system must ultimately depend.

The recent debate comprised a vast number of questions, and assumed a very complicated appearance; and yet this was owing rather to the relations of sections of the House to each other than to any mighty difficulty existing in the question at stake. That question, as between the House and the country, was—and is—one which can be very briefly put: *What sort of bill, on the whole, does the people want?* Now that we are to have a dissolution, let us simplify things as much as possible, and fix the above as the essence of the question. It is not a matter of men we are to settle; it is not, as in 1857, a matter of who behaved best in the Russian war; it is simply and solely this point of the general features of a new reform bill. There is now no bill before the nation on the subject. Lord Derby has withdrawn his. Lord John Russell has supplied hints indeed as to what kind of one he will propose when his turn comes; but that is all. With regard to Mr. Bright, he, too, has given indications, but not a complete measure, and must be judged by the general tenor of his autumnal speeches. There is now a clear ground open for all sorts of propositions. Every candidate must enunciate his own views; and when the new House meets, parties must be left to adjust themselves the best way they can.

It will be once more in the country's power to try and send up a House which shall be capable of producing a strong administration. The only way by which constituencies can do this, is to first make up their own minds on the reform question. Vagueness can only be reflected by vagueness; and if we have another Parliament which does not know what it wants, or whom to follow, what can we expect but more "earthquakes" of the kind we are now experiencing? In the last case, there may be change after change of governments; but the solid difficulties

of the country will all remain. The navy will not be manned; the finances of India will not be repaired; law reforms, education, and retrenchment will stand still; "crisis" will succeed "crisis;" and the longer such disturbance is prolonged, the weaker will the country be in its influence on European Powers, and the deeper will the House of Commons sink in the general estimation of the British people themselves. A great responsibility rests on the constituencies in the coming struggle—a greater responsibility than in 1857. For they are now formally

indefinite is the state of opinion among politicians, that we think constituencies would do well to exact promises a little more strictly than usual on an occasion like this. For by no other plan does a settled administration seem possible. So let our candidates be made to expound themselves frankly—Ballot, or permissive ballot, or no ballot? universal suffrage, or fancy franchise, or 46 householders? By this process, we shall at least know what we have to expect when the new House meets. Generalities will not do; for a man may have his quiver full of generalities, and yet act in the House from none but factious motives.

For example, at this very moment, to what would a man be pledged by disapproving only of the late unsuccessful bill? To nothing in particular. It would be equally open to him to join Lord John Russell, who is against extensive disfranchisement and against the ballot; or to join Mr. Bright, of whose measure these provisions must necessarily form the chief part. And he might join either without getting for his supporters what either proposes to give him—since, though both voted against the Derby bill, it is by no means clear that they will act together in anything positive. Lord John will pass no democratic measure; and Mr. Bright distinctly intimated that he would cheerfully wait five years rather than have anything else.

Now, we take it that one thing is absolutely certain through all the confusions of the discussion—that the Reform Bill, come when it may, will be a compromise. It will take in more than the Derby bill, but it will not revolutionise the Constitution. It will be too liberal for an old Tory, and too conservative for a young demagogue. So much the more reason is there for the constituencies to settle their programmes at once, and thus insure that some bill shall be possible within a reasonably short period of the meeting of the new Parliament. After the ample, indeed tediously long, debates of late, all who really care a fig on the subject have abundant means of acquiring some knowledge of its present state.

We shall, of course, again and again recur to the details which ought to be insisted on by electors—the frame-

work of the Constitution being assumed to build upon. But our immediate object is to point out that the task ought to be set about at once. The moderate and practical men in every constituency ought to take the lead immediately; for if they neglect the opportunity, so good a one may not come again. The temper of the country is good, and the occasion, in all domestic respects, favourable.

Yet these facts depend on conditions which may change; and the aspect of the affairs of Europe is not promising. Our house



AGUA SANTA.—(FROM A PICTURE BY E. LONG, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

asked whether they will end these perpetual embarrassments by some definite course of action, or whether they will risk the future peace of the country by evading the difficulty.

We are not friendly in a general way to what are called "hustings pledges." The representative is not a mouth-piece only—not a mere delegate—but a man supposed to be independent, and to have a judgment of his own—which may be modified, of course, by circumstances arising that had not arisen when his electors chose him. Nevertheless, so lax and



wants setting in order, no doubt; but what if it be in peril (say) from over-the-way? The continued military preparations on the Continent damp the hopes excited by the name of a Congress, and warn us that if it is important to reform ourselves as a commonwealth, it is still more important to defend ourselves as a nation.

AGUA SANTA.

It was Mr. Philip who first discovered Spain, whether his friend Mr. Ansdell was not long following him. Now, Mr. Burgess has been there, and also Mr. Long, who has been working at Burgos, and even signs his works with the name of that town. Mr. Long paints in the stern, serious, Spanish style. His personages are ugly but characteristic; and they have all that air of suffering which is presented by the figures in Ribera's pictures, and in Nadar's "Famille Espagnole Devorce par les punaises." "The custom in Spain of passing holy water by touch often gives a lover his first opportunity of approaching the object of his affection," says Mr. Long, in his note-book; and this custom is illustrated with much gravity and feeling in the artist's "Agua Santa." Love is divided by most of our modern students into three styles: the lively and capricious, the sentimental, and the passionate. The passionate is severe in its origin, and would doubtless be found among Spaniards of deep religious tendencies. Hence the earnest, almost sad, expression of the lovers' countenances in Mr. Long's picture, though the kind of occupation in which they are engaged is usually considered agreeable, and, by the light-minded, even amusing.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

COUNT CAVOUR, who left Paris for Turin on Wednesday of last week, is said to have gone back radiant with expectation, and extremely well satisfied with his visit to the Emperor.

The military display of Sunday, in Paris, was conducted on a grand scale: as not fewer than 50,000 soldiers passed in review before crowds who displayed great enthusiasm.

Six divisions of the army are about to be placed on a war footing. Recent letters from Lyons mention that the usual gratifications previous to commencing a campaign, have been distributed to the army of Lyons. It is said, also, that infantry officers have been furnished with horses—a step not usual except in contemplation of war. An army of 60,000 men will soon be assembled at Lyons.

In practical reply to the movement of Austrian troops along the shore of Dalmatia and Illyria, the Emperor and Empress of France consent to become godfather and godmother to the promised son and heir of Prince Danilo, Vlatka of Montenegro.

The defeat of the English ministry does not seem to have produced any particular sensation in Paris.

SPAIN.

A CONVENTION has been concluded between Spain and Morocco, in virtue of which the Spanish colony of Melilla resumes its former limits, and the Moorish Government undertakes to restrain the inhabitants of the Rif. The restitution of Spanish prisoners took place at Tangiers on the 16th ultimo. They have been handed over to the *Chargé d'Affaires* of the Queen.

SWITZERLAND.

THE Federal Council was occupied at one of its recent sittings in considering the means to be adopted to meet the expenses which might be caused by the armaments in Switzerland. Two plans were suggested—one, a loan from capitalists, and the other a national subscription. The Council decided for the latter.

AUSTRIA.

AUSTRIA has asked for loans from all the Italian princes whom she considers her feudatories. The Archduke Maximilian d'Este has responded to the appeal by an advance of twenty millions of zwanzers—nearly the whole of his fortune. His nephew, the reigning Duke of Modena, Francis V., gives six millions; and the Molza family one million and a half, besides an equal sum which they will advance under the guarantee of the Grand Duke. It is not yet known what subscriptions will be made by the King of Naples and the Grand Duke of Tuscany.

RUSSIA.

THE Emperor of Russia has been engaged in the inspection of some new works at Cronstadt.

General Ignatieff, son of the military governor of the Russian capital, has set out for Peking, where, in conformity with the provisions of the last treaty concluded with China, he is to represent the Imperial Government. He is accompanied by numerous officials.

A St. Petersburg letter says:—"The Senator Kapcherr has received orders to draw up a penal military code, an undertaking almost as important as the emancipation of the peasants. Persons who are acquainted with the arbitrary manner in which Russian soldiers have been hitherto subjected to punishment will readily appreciate the utility of this work."

ITALY.

ON Count Cavour's return to Turin an imposing demonstration was prepared. A great concourse of people thronged the road, shouting—"Viva il Re!" "Viva Cavour!" "Viva l'Italia!" "Viva Francia!" A deputation of workmen and students went to him as representatives of the crowd shouting their *cries* under his window. To this deputation the Count addressed a short speech, expressing his confidence that the youth of Italy would be unanimous in braving the dangers of the future.

The Count has addressed to the Prussian minister at Turin, for representation to the court of Vienna, a protest against the violation of the Sardinian territory by an Austrian patrol. They were eleven men in all. Their excuse was that they had lost their way.

Letters from Rome, Florence, and other towns of Italy announce that numerous subscriptions have been opened for the purpose of affording pecuniary assistance to the Sardinian Government, and also that volunteers have been despatched to Piedmont.

The King of Naples has undergone another surgical operation; his health still declines. However, his Majesty still pushes on his preparations for war.

It is said that the Grand Duke of Tuscany intends to impose a new constitution upon his subjects.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE Constantinople journals mention the departure for Schumla of twelve battalions and eighty pieces of artillery. Another division was to follow. According to some accounts, Count Lallemand had demanded from the Grand Vizier some explanations relative to this movement of troops, but had received only an evasive answer. Colonel Couza had protested against the movement. An outburst in Bulgaria was expected in consequence of the heavy taxes imposed on the inhabitants. The effective strength of the Turkish army is now 73,000 men.

AMERICA.

TUR President has given way to the clamours of the democratic party, and determined to call an extra session of Congress. The postmaster-general is preparing plans to enable the department to carry on its duties without an appropriation.

Great floods have occurred in Massachusetts, and done immense damage.

Six hundred thousand dollars have been abstracted from the treasury in Ohio.

Mr. Smith O'Brien is in Charleston, and on the 17th ult. was to accompany the Irish Volunteers at their target exercises.

The dispute between Paraguay and the United States has been peacefully settled by mutual explanations on the facts which had caused it.

namely, the affair of the steamer *Waterwitch*, and the conduct of the government of Paraguay towards the American agent who was entrusted in 1857 with the ratification of the treaty of commerce.

From Mexico, the report of the general success of the liberals is confirmed.

CANADA.

A NEW tariff introduced by Mr. Galt, the provincial Chancellor of the Exchequer, adopts the principle of *ad valorem* duties on many articles, the object being to encourage direct imports from foreign countries by the St. Lawrence, such as tea, coffee, sugar, &c., instead of having to resort to the market of New York. Such a policy the merchants contend will materially benefit British shipping and the ports of Quebec and Portland, as well as throw a large traffic on the Canadian Trunk Railway. The bill will be opposed by the members for certain portions of Upper Canada, whose constituents regard New York as their best market; but the Canadian interests below Toronto will support the *ad valorem* duties with a view to direct imports from China and the West Indies, exchanging with the latter lumber, fish, flour, and provisions. The Canadian Legislature has also adopted a memorial to the Imperial Government against granting subsidies to mail steamers running to American ports, while withholding any postal subsidy to the Canadian mail steamers. They ask for the port of Portland to be substituted for Boston—a demand which appears reasonable, and one that would serve Canada and the United States better than the present arrangement.

INDIA.

LORD CANNING's notification of the purpose of Government to borrow money by promissory notes has caused a panic in the market; and the financial embarrassment of the Government is represented as most serious.

From Central India we hear that the rebels were at Mehidpoor, but that the Rao Sahib, who led them, was ready to arrange the terms of his submission. General Michel was moving upon Bhopal. The whereabouts of Feroze Shah was not known.

It would seem that one of Jung Bahadur's officers has had interviews with the Begum, with Birjis Kuddr, with Nona Sahib, and Bala Rao. They and their followers, whom Buddri Singh, the Nepalese officer, describes as numbering no less than 60,040 men, (of whom, however, only 12,000 are infantry and 5,000 cavalry, the rest being camp followers and unarmed dependents), were proceeding towards Chitout, to which place they had been invited by Jung Bahadur. It would appear that he meant to trap them.

THE CONGRESS.

WE are now little better informed as to the composition of the proposed Congress than we were last week; and have fewer reasons to hope that it will "come through" happily. It appears that Austria insists upon Piedmont's disarming as a preliminary to the Congress; but whether Victor Emmanuel will then be permitted to send a representative is not clear. A still more important difficulty is the determination of France to affix the Imperial signature to no protocol, stipulation, or final arrangement bearing any reference to the treaties of 1815, or the Verona and Laybach monuments of anti-Napoleonic diplomacy. "The Emperor, though accepting as a fact the existence of the treaties of 1815, will never consent to give them by his signature a new consecration." Meanwhile, in Austria, France, and Sardinia, war preparations of the most threatening character are being carried on; and, despite all that has been said in our Parliament Houses, the prospect appears darker than ever.

SHOCKING RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN CANADA.

A SEVERE storm of wind and rain, which swept over the whole country, has proved very disastrous in Canada, and especially as it caused a terrible accident on the Great Western Railroad—near Dundas. At the point where this sad casualty occurred, the track crosses a deep ravine, which had been filled in so that it was thought a solid embankment had been made that nothing could disturb. "The bottom, however," says the "Toronto Globe," "is of that peculiar formation composed of the debris from the hill-side close by, and the soil of which the embankment is composed is clean sand and fine gravel. It would seem that the water had collected in the hollow between the hill-side and the railroad embankment, from whence it had, we should suppose, made its way through the bottom of the embankment. When once the water had thus made a passage way, the loose sand soon yielded before the flood, and a yawning chasm of about one-hundred yards in length, and from about forty to fifty feet deep, was soon made, the earth being carried out bodily down the declivity below.

"When the night express arrived at this point, it was fearfully dark, and no sign was afforded of the awfully dangerous pitfall to which the train hurried on its way. In an instant the engine and tender leaped into the hole, closely followed by the baggage car, an emigrant car, two first-class passenger cars, and a sleeping car. A fearful crash was the inevitable result, and to look upon the wreck, one can only wonder how any person in either of the passenger cars escaped. Enveloped in darkness, the snow falling fast, and the wind blowing furiously, men, women, and children were buried in the ruins of the train, the engine being underneath all, roaring terribly from its steam-pipes. Singularly enough, however, the passengers in the first passenger car escaped. It does not appear that there were any passengers in the emigrant car. The second first-class passenger car, however, was a complete wreck, and it was to those who occupied it that the fearful havoc of life and limb occurred. The sleeping car did not go down into the hole, but such was its position, poised on the brink, that the passengers who had taken refuge in it soon had to leave it, fearing that it would run down the embankment. When they left this last shelter, they could do no better than take out the cushions and bedding, with which they made such a resting place as kept the women and children off the wet ground; and with the blankets and bed-clothes the men managed to protect them from the worst of the storm. A messenger was despatched for aid, but before he could get to Hamilton and send on here, some four hours had been spent under exposure to the pitiless storm. As soon as possible, however, the railroad officials despatched a locomotive with such accommodation for the sufferers as could be hastily procured. It was then found that seven persons had been killed, and many others greatly injured."

We have received a sketch made on the spot immediately after the disaster. This sketch we propose to engrave next week.

THE CONFERENCE on the affairs of the Danubian Principalities was to have opened on Thursday. There were to be two sittings only, both to be occupied with the consideration of Prince Couza's election, who will, it is said, be acknowledged by all the Powers. The discussion of the Danubian navigation question is to be deferred to some future period.

OUR ARMY IN INDIA: ITS FOLLOWERS AND FOOD.—In Oude, during the last campaign, we had a force of less than 12,000 European soldiers, and less than 10,000 native fighting men; to be accurate, I may give the exact numbers in November, 1858, as 11,071 British, and 9,276 native fighting men. To these were attached, as servants on the public establishments and camp followers, all drawing rations from the commissariat, 40,706 men! The elephants in attendance were 388, the camels 6,487; the carts, including those employed in the supply of posts, 7,268 (one man at least to each); the ordnance bullocks, 3,513; the pack bullocks, 3,063; mules and yahoos, 1,251. These figures show a tolerably large aggregate of consumptive power, and in effect our good British soldiers did eat every day of their lives, from the commissariat stores, nearly 12,000lb. of beef and mutton, 12,000lb. of bread, 12,000lb. of vegetables, 2,767lb. of rice, 1,730lb. of sugar, 691lb. of salt, drank 494lb. of tea in infusion, burnt 33,213lb. of firewood, and swallowed 553 gallons of rum. In those praiseworthy efforts they were aided by the native soldiers and camp followers, and by the cattle which consumed each day 65,979lb. of flour, 12,453lb. of dahl or lentil (I should say the real *revalenta Arabica*), 579lb. of salt, 1,158lb. of melted and rendered butter, 75,500lb. of grain, and 422,940lb. of fodder! Out of all these men and cattle not one was ever deprived of his full and just allowance by the commissariat.—Letter from Lucknow.

IRELAND.

THE DEATH OF THE MARQUIS OF WATERFORD.—We stopped the press last week to announce, among other items of intelligence, that the Marquis of Waterford had been killed from a fall in hunting. He went out with the hounds at Castle-Norris, Kilkenny, on Tuesday. The pack had run short and had killed two foxes, when a third was found and started. Lord Waterford was preceded by Ryan his huntsman, and on coming to a small fence the huntsman cried out, "My Lord, there is a bit of a gripe at the other side." "Oh, never mind," said the Marquis, as his horse got his fore-foot over easily, but at the outer side of the gripe some loose stones caused the animal to fall forward on its knees, throwing the Marquis over the side of its neck. He remained in that position two or three moments, but the horse not recovering itself, Lord Waterford fell out of the saddle, sideways, and came down upon his head on the road—a very slight fall, but yet unhappy sufficient to cause dislocation of the neck, and probably concussion of the brain, causing almost immediate death. Assistance was promptly rendered, but it was of no avail. After killing the fox, the field returned to find the master of the hounds a corpse. It was carried slowly back to Curraghmore, where the Marchioness, who had awaited the return of the living, found herself in the presence of the dead. The Reverend Lord John Bunsford succeeds to the title and estates. The writer of an obituary notice in the "Press" remarks that in personal appearance the late Marquis was "a genuine Beresford, with the clear, the searching eye, and regularity of features, hereditary for generations in that noble race. In bodily form he was conspicuous for a chest and shoulders of rare development. At thirty years of age, Lord Waterford was probably the strongest man in the kingdom, and his activity was equal to his vigour." Lord Waterford is the third peer who, within a short period, has lost his life from hunting. The late Earl of Harewood and Lord Fitzhardinge died from bad falls in the field; and only a few days since a country gentleman and landed proprietor was killed while hunting in the county of Cork.

RELIGIOUS RIOT IN GALWAY.—SIGNORE GAVAZZI attempted to lecture in Galway, but his appearance caused a riot. He was driven into the police barracks, chased from the town, and his life only saved by the judicious arrangements of the police, who prevented the mob from following in the direct line of his retreat, and who had cut off, with a force of fifty men with fixed bayonets, the advance of the Claddagh fishermen. Some other gentlemen were seriously assaulted.

THE PHOENIX CLUB PROSECUTIONS.—The Crown has succeeded in its prosecution of one of the Phoenix conspirators in the south. Daniel Sullivan has been found guilty at Tralee, and sentenced to penal servitude for a period of ten years. At Belfast the jury, having been locked up all night, and not being able to agree, were discharged. Daniel Sullivan directed his solicitor to abandon his defence in the following letter:—"Dear Sir,—Having seen every Catholic who was called upon to try me, including men of the highest station and respectability, set aside by the Crown, and exclusively Protestant jury empanelled to try me, who am a Catholic, and this course having been taken after every effort had been made in the public press to create prejudice against me in the minds of Protestants, I feel that a jury has been unfairly chosen to convict me. I will, therefore, be no party to going through the mockery of a defence, and I withdraw all authority from you, and from my counsel, and I leave those who persecute me to do as they think proper." Meanwhile, sympathy for the defendant is not wanting in high quarters. Archbishop McHale sends £20 towards what is called the "Fair Trial Fund," and, far more curious, Mr. W. V. Foster, long and favourably known as the emigrant's friend, contributes £100 towards the same object. Mr. Attorney-General Whitelaw arrived in Belfast on Monday, in order to conduct in person the second trial of the Phoenixites. Mr. Roe, the attorney for the traversers, having vainly endeavoured to persuade Baron Fitzgerald to postpone the trials, that gentleman, following up the tactics at Tralee, abandoned the defence of his clients, with the curt remark addressed to the court, that he "don't care how the case goes."

THE PROVINCES.

CONFESSION OF A MURDER NEARLY FORTY-THREE YEARS AGO.—A man named Simey died at Castor last week. Whilst on his death-bed he confessed to having participated in the murder and robbery of Thomas French, a shepherd of Stibbington, in November, 1816. French had been to Peterborough market to sell some sheep, and was murdered on his way home, the last seen of him alive being at a public-house at Thorpe, where he left in company with Simey and two men (since dead) named Brownitt and Burbridge, of Thornhaugh. Simey says that he, Brownitt, and Burbridge, murdered French by beating him on the head with hedge-sticks; they then robbed him and buried him in a manure heap, where, he says, they were three weeks, but, fearing the manure heap would be removed, they went one night and took the body away, and threw it into the river Nene, where it was afterwards found. On the discovery of the body, Brownitt and Burbridge were apprehended on suspicion, but nothing being proved against them they were discharged. On referring to the "Stanford Mercury" of December of 1816, we find that the coroner's jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned," and that some silver remained in the pocket of deceased when the body was taken out of the river. Brownitt was afterwards transported for some offence, and whilst in prison he twice sent for a son of French's to say he had something of importance to say to him, but on French's son arriving at the prison Brownitt had nothing particular to say.

A MORAL STORY.—The "Sunderland Times" says a marriage took place last week between an old man of 79 and a young lady of 26! Soon after the ceremony was over, the bride quarrelled with her newly-wedded lord, and quitted his house, declaring she would not stay a single day under his roof. She made her way to a goldsmith's to sell the wedding ring, but, to her chagrin, found it to be of brass. "Under these circumstances she was outrageous, and, to obtain something for a spree, sold herself and ring to a young navy for four shillings!"

INTERESTING DISCOVERIES AT WROXETER.—Recent excavation at Wroxeter, have brought to light many interesting relics of bygone times. The latest discovery is a series of small rooms and passages in solid and good masonry, with a remarkably well-executed drain underneath. They seem to have formed part of the domestic offices of a large dwelling. In one of the small rooms three skeletons were found, one of them seated or crouching in a corner, as though they had sought concealment in this retired part of the house and been discovered and murdered there. In a passage near this room, where the wall remains about four feet high above the floor, an inscription had been scrawled upon the wall with some sharp-pointed instruments, in letters about four inches tall and very straggling, resembling in character similar inscriptions found in Pompeii. Some meddling visitors broke away several inches of the upper part of the stucco, before this inscription could be properly observed, and it is feared that what is left will not admit of deciphering so far as to throw any light on the purport of the inscription.

MURDER BY A SPANISH SAILOR IN LIVERPOOL.—The shipmates of one Garai, a Spaniard, belonging to the *Fraternidad*, lying at Liverpool, had been creating a disturbance in a public-house, and were turned out by the landlord. Garai and some others afterwards came up, with the object, apparently, of avenging their comrades. The landlord refused to admit them further than the counter, and they returned into the street, where a fracas arose between them and some boys. A man named Marshall was standing by, and seeing that Garai was very violent, and had a knife in his hand, interfered, and himself received so severe a stab in the side that he died shortly afterwards. Garai has been committed for trial.

STRANGE CATASTROPHE.—Wombwell's well-known menagerie proceeded from Wrexham fair, on Friday, to Holywell, and on its arrival was attacked in a field. A furious gale of wind was blowing, and four of the caravans (forming one entire side) containing lions, tigers, and bears, were thrown upon the people, carrying with them the canvas roof, tent-poles, and lights, and burying the people beneath. About two score of persons were pinned to the ground by the fallen carriages—some by their arms, some by their legs, the majority, however, having been buried beneath the carriages themselves. Four persons were killed, and several injured.

THE "BARON DE CAMIN" AT MANCHESTER.—On Sunday night the "Baron de Camin," formerly an inquisitor of the order of St. Dominic, in the south of France, was announced to preach in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester. Baron de Camin's assaults upon the Papists, are like the bursting forth of the devouring elements; and as it was expected he would make some unpalatable disclosures respecting the practices of the Roman Catholic church, a great number of Irish Catholics were present. The uproar prevented the preacher from proceeding, and the police at length apprehended one of the ringleaders, and took him away from the hall. A rush instantly took place, and the ringleader and six of those who had aided in rescuing him were safely lodged in jail. Several policemen were badly hurt in the affray, and one of them had to be taken to the infirmary for surgical treatment. The seven prisoners (Catholics), were brought before magistrates next day, and were held to bail in two sureties of £10 each to answer an indictment at the sessions. The Baron de Camin was the person who (according to his own testimony) fired the celebrated shot at the residence of the Foreign Minister, in Paris, which initiated the French revolution of 1818.

IN THE NUMBER OF PAPERS IN RECEIPT OF RENT IN ENGLAND AND WALES, in the fourth week of February, there was a decrease of 104,375, or 10.68 per cent. The decrease extends to every week in the month, and in the first and second weeks was 11 per cent.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BATH.—Mr. Phinn, Q.C., will again offer himself as a candidate for the representation of this city, in opposition to Sir A. Elton. Besides Mr. Tite, the present member, Mr. Way, the Conservative candidate at the last election, will enter the lists.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. Robert Palmer, the eldest of the three representatives of this county, will retire, we believe. Mr. Bouverie and Mr. Vansittart will offer themselves for re-election, opposed by Captain Leicester Vernon and Mr. Walter, of Beauford.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. David Robertson offers himself in opposition to his son-in-law, Sir John Marjoribanks, a Conservative.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. P. Peol will again stand for this borough; and a close contest is expected between Mr. Phillips, the present member, and Mr. Phillips, an expected candidate.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—Mr. Wigram's resignation brings Mr. Selwyn into the field, with the usual machinery of London school committees.

GLoucestershire.—The Liberal party in this borough have announced their intention of bringing forward Mr. J. A. Otway, late M.P. for Stafford, in opposition to Sir Frederick Smith. Mr. Otway, who is in favour of a large measure of reform, an advocate of the ballot, and opposed to church-rates, has obtained all sections of the Liberal party, and his return is looked upon as certain.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. H. B. Sheridan, the sitting member for this borough, will be opposed, if not by both the Conservative and Liberal parties, certainly by the latter. Among the names that have been mentioned with some show of probability are those of Mr. William Matthews, who refused to divide the Liberal ranks for the Southern Division of Staffordshire at the last election; Mr. R. C. Chawner (Chairman of the South Staffordshire Railway Company and South Staffordshire Water Company); and Viscount Monck.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. Watlington solicits the suffrages of this county as a supporter of Lord Derby.

GLoucestershire.—A requisition is in course of signature calling upon Mr. Sergeant Parry to present himself as a candidate. The Learned Gentleman had previously close run with Mr. Cox, the sitting member, at the general election of 1857.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. Charles James Monk, Chancellor of the Diocese of Gloucester and Bristol, and son of the late Bishop Monk, has issued his address, Gloucestershire (West).—The seat of Mr. Kolt for this division of Gloucestershire will be contested by the Liberals.

GLoucestershire.—An arduous struggle is anticipated here. The Conservative candidates, Sir E. H. K. Lacon (who sat for the town from 1852 to 1857), and Sir H. J. Stracey, formerly M.P. for East Norfolk, have virtually announced themselves for some time past. On the other side, the candidates at present before the constituency are Mr. E. W. Watkin, of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, and Mr. A. W. Young, one of the sitting members. Some of the Liberals seem to desire that Mr. James McCullagh, who sat for the borough for a brief period in 1857, should again come forward.

GLoucestershire.—The Conservatives of this borough are so elated with the return of Captain Jervis that they have resolved to put a second candidate in nomination.

GLoucestershire.—There is some talk of the extreme Liberals and volunteer enthusiasts bringing out Mr. W. Williams, a local merchant, in opposition to the sitting member, Mr. Ackroyd.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. M. T. Baines declines to be put in nomination again. Mr. Barrett, Conservative, offers himself for re-election, but the Liberals will make great exertions to get two Liberals returned.

GLoucestershire.—Lord Stanley, it is said, will be brought forward for the City of London, but the report lacks confirmation.

GLoucestershire.—Many are the rumours as to what is to be done for Manchester. Mr. Turner is said to be desirous of retiring. Mr. Entwistle (the firm of Lloyd, Entwistle, and Co., bankers) and Mr. O. Heywood (of the firm of Sir B. Heywood and Co., bankers), are mentioned as probable candidates in the Conservative interest; Mr. J. B. Potter, brother of the late Sir J. Potter, is mentioned as a Liberal colleague for Mr. Bazley.

GLoucestershire.—There will be a warm contest in this borough, Mr. P. J. Taylor, of London, being the candidate of the Radical party; Mr. P. Garstairs, the candidate in the Dissenting interest. The present representatives, Mr. Headlam and Mr. G. Ridley, will offer themselves again, and it is not improbable that a Ministerial candidate will be brought forward.

GLoucestershire (East).—General Windham retires.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. Mial, Mr. Layard, Mr. Mellor, Q.C., Mr. Seeley, of London (Liberals), Mr. Grenville Harcourt Vernon, and Mr. Ernest Jones are talked of. Mr. Jones has issued an address.

GLoucestershire.—There is a rumour that Colonel Boyer, of Steeple Ashton, will be supported by the Conservatives, and Sergeant Gascolee by the Radicals against the present members, Messrs. Cardwell and Langston.

GLoucestershire.—There is a rumour that Colonel North contemplates resigning, and in the event of his doing so Mr. Hugh Hamersley and Lieutenant-Colonel Fane are respectively spoken of as candidates to supply his place.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. Moore and Mr. Wilson, gentlemen intimately connected with the shipping interest, and both residing in London, are spoken of as candidates for Plymouth at the next election. The sitting members are Mr. R. P. Collier and Mr. James White.

GLoucestershire.—Sir P. T. Baring and Sir James Elphinstone are the sitting members. Among the names spoken of as likely to come forward are Sir James Ferguson (Conservative), Admiral Sir H. Keppell, and Sergeant Gascolee on the Liberal side.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. Edward Watkin (Liberal), late M.P. for Yarmouth, is mentioned as likely to oppose Mr. Massey for Salford.

GLoucestershire (East).—Sir Henry A. Hoare has been solicited to contest the eastern division of Somerset in the Liberal interest, in opposition to Mr. Knatchbull, one of the present members.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. Charlesworth, the present Conservative member for this borough, will be opposed on the Liberal side by Mr. W. H. Leatham, a local banker.

GLoucestershire.—Two candidates are before the electors for the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Mr. H. S. Waddington—viz., Earl Jermyn and Major Windsor Parker. Both gentlemen profess Conservative principles.

GLoucestershire.—For the borough of Warwick Messrs. Greaves and Repton will again stand, with a prospect of opposition from the Hon. Mr. Leigh (brother of Lord Leigh), and another Liberal. Mr. E. B. King gives place in the southern division of the county to Sir Charles Mordaunt, a Conservative; while for North Warwickshire either Mr. Spooner or Mr. Newdegate will be opposed.

THE REVENUE RETURNS.

The Returns exhibit a net decrease of £869,712, on the quarter, and of £2,494,229, on the year ending March 31. For the quarter, the Customs show an increase of £25,943, which arises on tea, wine, and tobacco. In the Excise there is a decrease of £64,000, attributable to diminished receipts for spirits in England and Ireland. Stamps exhibit an improvement of £9,426. In Taxes, the small increase of £3,967, is owing to the number of new houses. The decrease of £207,601 in Property and Income-tax, arises entirely from the reduced rates of duty. The Post-office shows an increase of £125,000. Under the head of Crown Lands there is an increase of £2,600, and under Miscellaneous, a decrease of £6,047.

For the year, we find in Customs an increase of £1,008,839, owing to a large increase in the receipts of duty upon sugar and tobacco; also an increase upon corn, currants, silk manufactures, and other articles. In Excise, there is an increase of £77,000. A decrease of £4,902,528 in the Property and Income-tax necessarily results from the reduced rates of 280,000. The increase of £3,386 in Crown Lands, and of £529,057, under the head Miscellaneous, are casual variations.

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD AND HIS CLERGY.—The diocese of Oxford seems to be much distracted by the Puseyite tendencies (real or supposed) of the Bishop. Our readers may remember that a few weeks ago the archdeacons and many of the rural deans of the diocese, presented an address to the Bishop, in which they defended him against a pamphlet entitled "Facts and Documents," which charged the Bishop with favouring the Romanising tendencies of some of his clergy. Two remonstrances have now been addressed against this defence: one signed by some influential lay-members of the Church, who "Also desire to state our firm conviction that any attempt to ignore or palliate the Romanising tendencies they have exposed, far from curing the evils complained of, or allaying the alarm they have excited, will only tend to spread still further a feeling of dissatisfaction and distrust of the ministers and office-bearers of our reformed and truly scriptural Church." The other document is of still more importance. It is addressed to the aforesaid archdeacons and deans by upwards of eighty clergymen of the diocese—vicars, rectors, curates, incumbents, who call upon members of the opposite party to say whether, in their own archdeaconries and deaneries, Roman observances have not crept into the churches. As thus: "We appeal to the Venerable the Archdeacon of Oxford and to the Reverend the Rural Dean of Oxford to say whether there are not (as asserted in 'Facts and Documents'), stone altars in the following churches and chapels in your archdeaconry and rural deanery, and within a walk or ride of your residence:—St. Thomas in Oxford, Bunsey, Wolvercote, Littlemore, Sandford, St. John's, and the three Cemetery Chapels in Oxford. Further, we appeal to you to say whether, at least since the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, it is not actually unlawful to have stone altars in churches." And so on. This promises to become a very pretty quarrel.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 94. THE REFORM DEBATE.

MR. GLADSTONE.

ON Monday sen'night Mr. Gladstone moved the adjournment of the debate, and on the following day, in conformity with parliamentary usage, he was called upon to re-open it. As it was known that Mr. Gladstone would speak, the House was densely crowded in every part. Every seat was occupied; every step was turned into a seat. At the bar and behind the Speaker's chair crowds of members clustered who could find no seats, and in the side-galleries both the benches were closely packed. Mr. Gladstone arose about 5.30, and it was evident to every one that the Right Honourable Gentleman was in capital feather. Generally Mr. Gladstone's face looks pale and faded, but all this was gone. His eye was bright—the ashy hue was changed to an olive brown, and even the furrows on his care-worn cheek seemed to be filled up. His journey to the Isles of Greece—however otherwise unprofitable—has evidently improved the Right Hon. Gentleman's health, appearance, and spirits. Just before he arose to address the House, there was a buzz of conversation and much moving about and restlessness, as there always is whilst the preliminary business of the evening is going on; but when Mr. Speaker called out "Mr. Gladstone," the conversation died away, the confusion resolved itself into order, and when the well-known form of "the great Rhetorician" was seen to rise out of the crowd, and the tones of his voice were heard, all noise was hushed down in a moment to the deepest silence, and every eye was turned towards the speaker. In the words of Milton,

"— His voice
Drew audience and attention still as night,
Or summer's noontide air."

The deep silence in the House suddenly produced by the rising of one of its favourite speakers is always impressive, and it was never more so than it was on this occasion. It has been said that in proportion as men rise in culture, eloquence must lose its power; but it is a foolish saying. The same has been said of poetry, music, and the fine arts; but experience, and fact, and philosophy, every day refute the theory. It is one of the eternal laws, that mind can influence mind. In common matters, the medium of this influence takes the form of plain prose; in high, of oratory; in higher, of poetry; and in highest, when the thought is unutterable in words, it bursts forth in music; or more deliberately expresses itself in painting, sculpture, or even architecture. There may be men who are insensible to thought thus expressed, but that is not because they are too highly, but because they are not sufficiently cultured; or it may be because they have a defective nature. But we must not stop to philosophise.

HIS SPEECH.

Mr. Gladstone spoke for more than two hours, and he never spoke with more vigour and fluency; but if we are asked whether, on this occasion, his speech was effective—whether it contained anything worth remembering? we fear we must say no. And if, as Cicero says, "Oratory is nothing else than wisdom speaking copiously," we fear that we must decide that this is not oratory—for though the copiousness was there, we failed to discern the wisdom. There were words in profusion; fluency not to be matched in the speeches of any other speaker; and there were musical tones, correct elocution, and forcible, if not graceful action; but nothing wise, nothing great, nothing worth remembering. As a specimen of Mr. Gladstone's copiousness, we just give the following paraphrases which he used to describe mere nomination boroughs:—"They are small boroughs, the constituencies of which, from kindly interests, from ancient and affectionate recollection, from local and traditional respect, from remembrance of services received, from the admiration of great men and great qualities, are willing to take upon trust the candidates recommended to them by those noblemen or gentlemen who stand in immediate connection with them." This is speaking copiously—but is it wisdom that speaks?

THE LAST NIGHT.

But we must now jump to the last night of the debate—that night big with the fall of more than a hundred men—for in consequence of the proceedings of that night it is next to certain that upwards of a hundred members will soon disappear from the House, and never be seen there again. It was Thursday, the last day of March, when this debate, which had lasted seven nights, came to a close—or rather Friday; for though the debate recommenced early on Thursday evening, it did not finish until Friday morning. During the early part of the evening, there was some little doubt whether a division could take place. All the leaders were anxious for it, but there were still many members who wished to speak, if not to influence the debate, "to justify their votes to their constituents;" and probably some of these might insist upon a further adjournment. But during the dinner hour most of these speeches to "bunkum" were worked off. At half-past ten Mr. Roebuck arose, and matters looked promising. And when he sat down and Mr. Disraeli got up, we all knew that the end was come.

MR. DISRAELI.

Mr. Disraeli's speech was to our minds one of the greatest that he ever delivered. And yet we can easily imagine that strangers in the gallery were disappointed. Mr. Disraeli has a wide-spread reputation for brilliancy, wit, sarcasm, and invective, but there was little of all that on this occasion. The Right Honourable Gentleman was in quite a different position to that which he occupied when he hurled those fierce invectives against Sir Robert Peel, and he knew it. He was then the fierce, reckless, unscrupulous assailant, but now he is himself on his defence. And from his tone, and manner, and bearing, it was easy to see that (to use one of his favourite phrases) he felt in full force "the gravity of the occasion." His manner was calm and dignified, his voice was subdued and at times solemn, and instead of that brilliancy which we have been so accustomed to, we had measured and stately phrases; and in the place of sarcasm, and wit, and ingenious paradox, we had argument and warning. And how changed, too, was his manner! There are now none of the "tricks of the orator." He did not pull down his waistcoat, nor thrust his hands into his pockets, nor hook his fingers in his armbands. Indeed, as if he were conscious that these his accustomed attitudes and movements would be out of place, he had carefully buttoned his surtout closely across his chest before he began. Neither did he turn round to his followers to evoke their laughter and cheers, as he is wont; but, standing erect, and for the most part, especially in the more serious parts of his speech, with arms folded tightly across his breast, he fixed his deep-seated but glittering eyes steadily upon his foes.

"DIVISION."

But though Disraeli was delivering certainly one of his greatest speeches, it is remarkable that the House was not nearly so full as it was when Gladstone spoke. The fact was that many of the members were too excited, as the division approached, to sit quietly in the House, and so they wandered about the lobbies and the library, or tried to calm their nerves with a quiet smoke below. This comparative thinness of the House led to a good deal of speculation and doubt for a time. There were not more than 500 members present. "Where were the others?" was anxiously asked. "Are they Conservatives or Oppositionists that are absent?" The impression seemed to be that they were the latter, and for a time the Ministerial "whips" and their friends were in high glee. "Our men are all here; their men won't come to the scratch, you'll see; we shall beat them like a sack," we heard one of the Government members say. But soon Disraeli dropped into his seat, the Speaker arose to put the question, the division-bell rang, and then we saw another sight; for members now poured in in shoals, and most of those who came up, were evidently not "our men." And as the stream rolled on, the hopes of the Conservatives were damped, and their hearts failed them. But see, the door is shut, and all are in at last; and soon all doubt and speculation will be over. The excitement in the lobby, whilst the division was on, was intense; not a few Peers were there; election agents on the *qui vive* for a dissolution; and friends and partisans of the Government, and of their opponents, in large numbers. And as the

five-and-twenty minutes which the division occupied slowly wore away, the suspense was painful. But listen, there is some news; what did that member say through the grating on the door—"Ayes 291?" Why, there must surely be a majority, for there cannot be 600 in the House." And for a time the hopes of the Conservatives in the lobby, and of many inside, were in the ascendant. And well they might be—for to the uninitiated it might very well appear that 291 must win; but it did not appear so to us—who are not uninitiated—and for the following reasons: first, we strongly suspected, from what we had observed with our practised eye, that there were more than 600 members inside; and, secondly, we reckoned that if the "Ayes" had all gone in, and the "Noes" were still entering, the probability was that the "Noes" were most numerous; however, we were not much longer in suspense, for some uproarious cheering was heard. Another message came out, that the Government was beaten, for the Opposition tellers were on the right; and in another minute the door burst open, and a dozen voices at once shouted out: "Majority against the Government, 39." The confusion, and excitement, and noise in the lobby on the announcement of the numbers, are things which cannot be described; you might as well try to photograph a cloud of fire-flies. There were hurrys hither, hurrys thither. Messengers, who had previously secured Hansom cabs, were scudding away with the numbers to all parts of the metropolis. Members were rushing to the telegraph office to flash the news to their friends in the country; the "whips" were busy in keeping their forces together in expectation of another division—but we must leave this scene to the imagination, and pass on to show what was going on in the House. And first let us briefly explain to our readers the state of the question after the division. The original question was "that the bill be read a second time." The amendment of Lord John was that "all the words after 'that' be left out, in order to insert" his proposition, which we need not give. The question, then, which the Speaker had just put was, "That the words proposed to be left out (viz., all the words after 'that') stand part of the question." This had been negatived, and therefore the only word left in the original question was "that." The next question to be put was that Lord John Russell's amendment be added after the word "that;" and it was on this question that it was thought that another division might take place. No division, however, did take place. Some zealous Conservatives wished for one, but Mr. Disraeli gave no encouragement to the move, and so Lord John's amendment was added *nem. con.*

THE BOMB-SHELL.

So we head this paragraph; for if a bomb-shell had fallen amongst the members on Monday night they could not have been more startled than they were by the announcement made by Mr. Disraeli, that Parliament is to be dissolved. It is true that rumour had been rife for weeks that it would come to this. And the "Morning Star" had announced in the morning that this was the decision of the Government, but still very few believed it; and when, after long and torturing preliminary descriptions of what the Government might have done—or would have done if that had occurred which didn't occur—or that had not happened which did happen—Mr. Disraeli uttered the fatal word, it was easy to see that a large number of the members had got what they didn't bargain for when they divided against the Government last week. But the words had been uttered and could not be recalled. All must go and meet their constituents. Many must incur expenses which they can ill afford; and not a few, at least one-third of the whole, will never come back. For an hour there was quite a crowd of members at the Telegraph Office that night. Many were busy penning their election addresses, whilst not a few posted off to catch the train, and proceed at once to solicit the sweet voices of their constituents. In about sixteen days from this time Parliament will be dissolved; and in five weeks, or thereabout, it will once more assemble.

MR. DISRAELI AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer has issued the following address to the electors of the county of Buckingham:—

"Gentlemen,—A Parliamentary majority, composed of discordant sections, has availed itself of its numerical strength to embarrass her Majesty's Government, and by a disingenuous manoeuvre, to intercept the discussion of their measures.

"A year ago Lord Derby was summoned by her Majesty to undertake the administration of public affairs. Assisted by his colleagues, he has, with diligence and devotion, endeavoured to discharge his duty to the country.

"The blow which has lately been inflicted on the Government deprives it of authority, and yet in the ranks of the Opposition there is no more unity of sentiment than when their distracted politics rendered it necessary that Lord Derby should assume the helm.

"The Opposition in the present House of Commons, which was elected under ambiguous circumstances, is broken into sections, which can always combine and overthrow the Queen's Government, however formed. This is a condition alike prejudicial to Parliament and to the empire. It is for the country to comprehend and to remedy these evils.

"The moment is critical. England has engaged to mediate between two great Monarchs, and, if possible, preserve for Europe the blessings of peace. It is necessary that the Queen's Government should be supported by a patriotic Parliament.

"Her Majesty, therefore, under the advice of her Ministers, will shortly prorogue the present Parliament, with a view to its immediate dissolution, and will recur to the sense of her people, so that those who may be entrusted with her Majesty's confidence may be enabled to conduct the Government with becoming authority.

"Under these circumstances, I rely on the loyalty and public spirit of the county of Buckingham to rally round her Majesty's Government, and to return me, for the sixth time, their member to Parliament."

THE DIAPHRAGM SHELL.—The improved description of shrapnel shell invented by Captain Boxer—and for which and other inventions that officer received a reward of £5,000 from the Government—is adopted in the Artillery Service. The adoption of Captain Boxer's diaphragm shrapnel shell is not to affect the order which directs that all natures of shells in the ammunition boxes of field artillery carriages are to be carried unloaded; but as there is no reason to doubt that the diaphragm shrapnel shell may be carried loaded with safety for short periods, commanding officers may at their discretion load a small number of these shells before they may be required. All obsolete shells, fuzes and tubes will be withdrawn from the different stations as soon as possible and replaced by the latest approved descriptions.

THE RECRUITING SYSTEM INVESTIGATED.—The recent inquiry into the best means for providing the navy with sailors, has been followed by the announcement of a similar purpose as regards the army. A commission has just been issued directing an investigation into the whole system of recruiting as at present conducted, and authorising the suggestion of any such changes in the organisation or practice of that department "as may tend to facilitate the raising of men in a more expeditious, satisfactory, and economical manner, and to prevent desertion."

PRINCE ALFRED AT JERUSALEM.—Great preparations were being made at Jerusalem, at the date of our last letters from thence (March 17), for the reception of Prince Alfred, who was hourly expected. The Swedish Ambassador from Constantinople was also at Jerusalem when the mail left. Entertainments in his honour had been given at the English and French consulates, at which the Pacha and the various consuls were present. The reading-room of the Literary Society in the Via Dolorosa was opened to the public on the 1st of March. It is supplied with British, American, French, German, and Arabic newspapers and periodicals. It has also a library containing above 1,000 volumes.

IRISHMEN IN FOREIGN ARMIES.—The Army List of Austria is naturally an object of scrutiny just now. It appears that over a hundred principal officers are Hanoverians, and nearly as many born Bavarians; numbers also from Saxony and the minor States have taken service under the two-necked bird, which goes far to account for the zeal of their relatives at home to promote the *Kriegsbereitschaft* now in vogue. There are few, if any, Prussians in Austrian pay, though many Irish. Should France cross the Alps, a far more numerous array of fighting Irish will be marshalled against their Austrian kinsmen, two hundred officers appearing on the roll here. The Paris garrison counts many; the 73rd of the Line, now quartered at the Chateau d'Eau on the Boulevards, is commanded by Colonel H. C. O'Malley; and the Cuirassiers of the Imperial Guard, quartered at St. Germain, by Lucius O'Brien; not to mention General McMahon, who is likely to guide the whole campaign. Tom Moore's son died a lieutenant in Algeria, or that minstrel boy to the wars would have come. Not a few English are in France's service—among others a brother of the late Sir William Molesworth, holding high rank in La Garde Imperiale.

EXPLORATIONS IN AFRICA.

A NEW expedition has been organised for discovering the source of the Nile, and soon we may again hope that some of the great problems offered by the interior of the great Continent of Africa may be solved. The gentleman who has been appointed to head the expedition is a M. Miani, a Venetian, who has lived in Cairo upwards of ten years, and who is already known as the author of a map of the Valley of the Nile. He came to France a short time back to complete the *matériel* and arrange the *personnel* of the exploring party, which appears to have been selected with considerable care and discrimination. The expedition is composed of the Parisian painter, M. Dumas; Captain Peyhox, of the French Commercial Navy, whose mission is to make observations and fix the degrees of latitude and longitude, and to construct boats to traverse the lakes which the expedition may meet; of M. Poussel, of Avignon, secretary to the expedition; a physician, a naturalist, and a chemist, who are now in Egypt. The Emperor Napoleon has authorised the Minister of War to deliver to M. Miani the arms and ammunition necessary for his escort, and consequently orders have been forwarded to the Director of the Arsenal of Marseilles to despatch 100 flint muskets and 3,000 cartridges to Alexandria. One novel feature in this expedition is, that its members carry with them frightful masks, calculated to strike terror into the African savages. This is rather a Chinese idea.

Other eminent men have preceded M. Miani in exploring the unknown regions of Africa, and we may mention amongst recent travellers, the names of Richardson, Barth, Overweg, and Livingstone. The latter has but very lately been before the British public, and our readers must all be well acquainted with the story of his travels, and how greatly the interests of civilisation are likely to be promoted by his labours. Livingstone has returned, after many dangers, to continue still further his researches, and great are our expectations from the result of his intercourse with the numerous tribes who, ignorant of the natural riches that surround them, or lie under their feet, look for gain in trafficking in human flesh. Richardson was not so fortunate. He succumbed to the influences of climate, combined with self-imposed hardships for the furtherance of science and the interests of humanity. The account of his death in the deserts of Africa, as related to Dr. Barth by Mr. Richardson's dragoman, is particularly touching. After speaking of the gradual development of his illness, Dr. Barth describes the last moments of the enterprising traveller.

He says in his letter bearing the sad tidings to the British Consul at Tripoli:—"Mr. Richardson soon felt so weak that he anticipated his death; and leaving the hut (where he was established) for his tent, told his dragoman that he would die. When the dragoman endeavoured to console him by representing that his illness was of no consequence, Richardson assured him several times that his strength had completely failed; and indeed his pulse almost ceased to beat. He began then to rub his feet with vinegar, and applied the same several times to his head and shoulders; after which, in the absence of his servants, he poured water over his body—so that when they returned, after a few moments, they found him quite wet. To counteract the ill effects of this proceeding, they began to rub him with oil. In the evening he took a little food, and tried to sleep, but notwithstanding that he seems to have taken an opiate, he threw himself restlessly from one side to the other, calling his wife several times by her name. After having walked out of his tent, with the assistance of his servant, he ordered tea, and again threw himself, restless, on his bed. When it was past midnight, his old dragoman, Yusuf Mooknee, who watched in his tent, made some coffee to keep himself awake; upon which Mr. Richardson demanded a cup, but his hand was so weak that he could scarcely raise the cup. Then he said to Mooknee, '*Tergamento ufa*.'—'Your office as dragoman is finished;' and repeated several times in a broken voice, '*Forza mafishe, forza mafishe le-koul*.'—'I have no strength; I have no strength, I tell you,' at the same time laying Mohammed's hand on his shoulder. Feeling death approaching, he got up in a sitting posture, being supported by Mohammed, and soon expired after three times breathing deeply. He was entirely worn out, and died quietly, about two hours after midnight, on Tuesday, the 4th of March (Jumad-el-awel), without the least struggle. His servant then called into the tent the other people, and the Kashaalla, or officer of the Scheik, who had come along with them from Zinder, in order to be witness; and, while wrapping the body of the deceased in three shirts, which they had cut up, ordered the people of the village to dig a grave for him. They then packed up whatever of the luggage of Mr. Richardson was not locked up, and prepared everything for their journey to Kuka. Early in the morning they lifted the body, wrapped up as it was, upon Mr. Richardson's carpet, and carried him to his grave, which had been dug in the shade of a large gaw, close to the village, to the depth of four feet. Having then covered his head and breast with a very large tabah, so as to protect it on every side, they covered the body with earth, and had the grave well secured. I have spoken several times with Haj Beshir that it might be well taken care of, and I am sure the grave of the traveller, who sacrificed his life for his great object, will be respected. I send you with this first Kafilah all Mr. Richardson's papers and his journal, which is kept till the 21st of February, consisting of six reams, and his vocabularies, not finished, four reams, with Yusuf's journal, as well as all his other papers and letters of recommendation of the mission, and the papers concerning the treaty to be made, as well as a letter from Louson, one of the Tuaricks, and another from Ibrahim, the governor of Zinder, to the Queen, which I shall enclose in my report to the Government. I send you, besides, an authentic list of all the objects found in Mr. Richard-



THE LATE JAMES RICHARDSON, THE AFRICAN TRAVELLER.

son's possession, and it has been made up on the article being deposited with Haj Beshir.

"I beg you to assure Mrs. Richardson of my sincere sympathy; and that I hope she will find much consolation in the rich journals of the deceased."

Thus died the man to whose copious notes we are indebted for two very interesting volumes, edited by Mr. Bayle St. John, of travels in Central Africa. Let us hope that M. Miani may be spared to give to the world, under his own superintendence, the benefit of his discoveries in the expedition he is about to set out upon.

The report of a mission being on the eve of departure to seek for the source of the Nile, naturally excites an interest in everything appertaining to the scenes and people likely to be met with by the explorers. We therefore take this opportunity of publishing a portrait of Mr. Richardson, in his African costume, and a sketch of a group of Tuaricks—a most important nation, with whom he came in contact during his travels. Mr. Richardson thus speaks of them:—

"The chief of the Tuaricks of Ghat is nominally the venerable Shafou, whose son came with Hateetah to escort me from Mourzook; but the virtual sultaniship resides in Khanouhen, the heir-apparent, or son of Shafou's sister; for this is the order of succession in Ghat. Every Tuarick, however, is in some sort a chief, and more or less influence is acquired by age or personal qualifications. All the Tuaricks are easily distinguished by their habit of wearing a 'litham,' or muffler, with which they conceal their mouths and all the lower part of the face. This custom gives them a strangely mysterious appearance.

"The house of Haj Ahmed, the governor, to which we were conducted, is situated three parts of a mile from the town, which I did not enter during my stay. It would not have done to expose myself to the familiar impudence of the people, who had known me during my visit under very different circumstances. The governor welcomed us with hospitality, and his slaves unloaded our camels and quickly conducted us to our apartments. At noon, though it was Ramadhan time, we received some dishes of meat, with figs, grapes, and molasses—really a sumptuous repast. We were not allowed to go out the first day.

"The next morning there was a general meeting of the scheiks and people of the town in our apartments; and from the turn affairs began to take, we found it necessary to despatch a courier to Aronkeen, to beg the Tanelkums to wait a few days for us at that place. During the meeting began the first prevarication of the Tuaricks.

"The son of Shafou said that he did not agree to conduct us to Akeer, an assertion we contradicted strongly. At length he exclaimed, 'Although I did not agree to this, I will nevertheless conduct you'—making a new favour of an old bargain.

"When the meeting separated, there was another affair brought on the carpet by Hateetah and Waleed Shafou. They boldly demanded seventy reals, or small dollars of Ghat, for the passage of our liberated blacks to Soudan. I declared that I would not give a real, and told them to seize the people if they chose. Hateetah upon this went off in a rage, and Waleed Shafou stayed behind, pretending to seize our servants. We did not take any notice of him, and he likewise departed.

"When the Governor heard of this affair, he sent to tell us 'to arrange the matter, and give something to these dogs of Tuaricks,' at the same time expressing his sorrow for such a shameful demand; and shameful it was, because we had already paid for ourselves and our servants three hundred reals.

"On the morning of the 20th, there was another general meeting, and I presented the treaty for consideration. A long discussion followed, but I at first misunderstood the conclusion to which the scheiks came. It was that they could not come to a final arrangement until the winter souk (market) when all the notabilities would be assembled.

"A great deal of unpleasant discussion occurred during all these meetings, and I had to fight my way step by step. The Shereef was first on my side, but as I had promised him a present only if the treaty were signed, and as he saw that this would not take place, he turned round and became my active enemy. I said that nothing could be given until the scheiks and the people of Ghat did something for the Queen—for the presents were the Queen's presents. Finally, the day before our departure, a great uproar was made on this subject, and I was obliged to yield the point and give them burnouses.

"On the morning fixed for my departure, the scheiks and Haj Ahmed, seeing me grieved and out of temper, all came forward to try and repair any mischief they might have done me and their own reputation. They begged me to leave the treaty with them, and promised faithfully in the assembly of all the Scheiks, in the winter, to do their best to gratify the wishes of the British Government. Jabour paid me a farewell visit, and after he had received his present was very polite and jocular. The day before, one of his people had seized my Fezzanee servant because he did not give the usual presents, viz., a barracan and common fez. After a short time, however, they allowed him to return to me. Such are the Tuaricks—grasping, arrogant, and capricious!"

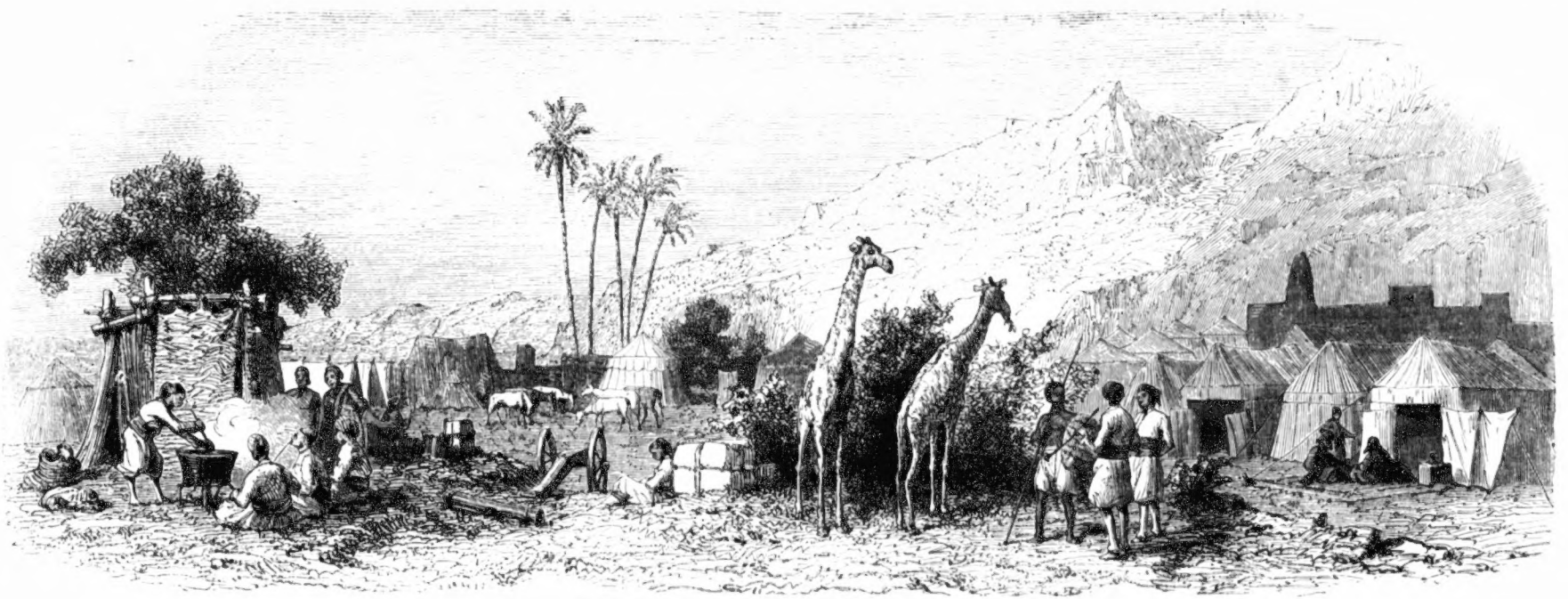
According to some of the Tanelkum Scheiks, the following are the names of the principal Farghee tribes, or Tuaricks, scattered over the desert of Sahara:—

1. Ouraghen, family of Shafou.
2. Emanghasatan, family of Hateetah.
3. Amana, family of Jabour. These are Shah Tuaricks.
4. Abethanaran, the tribe of Janet.
5. Hagar (Ahagar), pure Hagers and Maghatah, who stand to them somewhat in the relation of the Kourougloup of Algiers to the Turks. They occupy the tract between Ghat, Tuah, and Timbuctoo.
6. Sagamaram, located on the route from Aison to Tuah.
7. Oulimad, tribes surrounding Timbuctoo in great numbers.
8. Tanelkum, located in Fezzan.

But to revert to M. Miani's Nile expedition. The headquarters will be fixed at Kartoum, in Nubia, in the neighbourhood of the Ruby Mountain (of which we give an illustration), so named from the number of small rubies found upon its surface. Our other engraving shows the halt of an Egyptian escort, such an one as the Viceroy of Egypt will send to accompany M. Miani.



TUARICKS, PEOPLE OF CENTRAL AFRICA.



EGYPTIAN ENCAMPMENT AT KOROSKO, NUBIA.

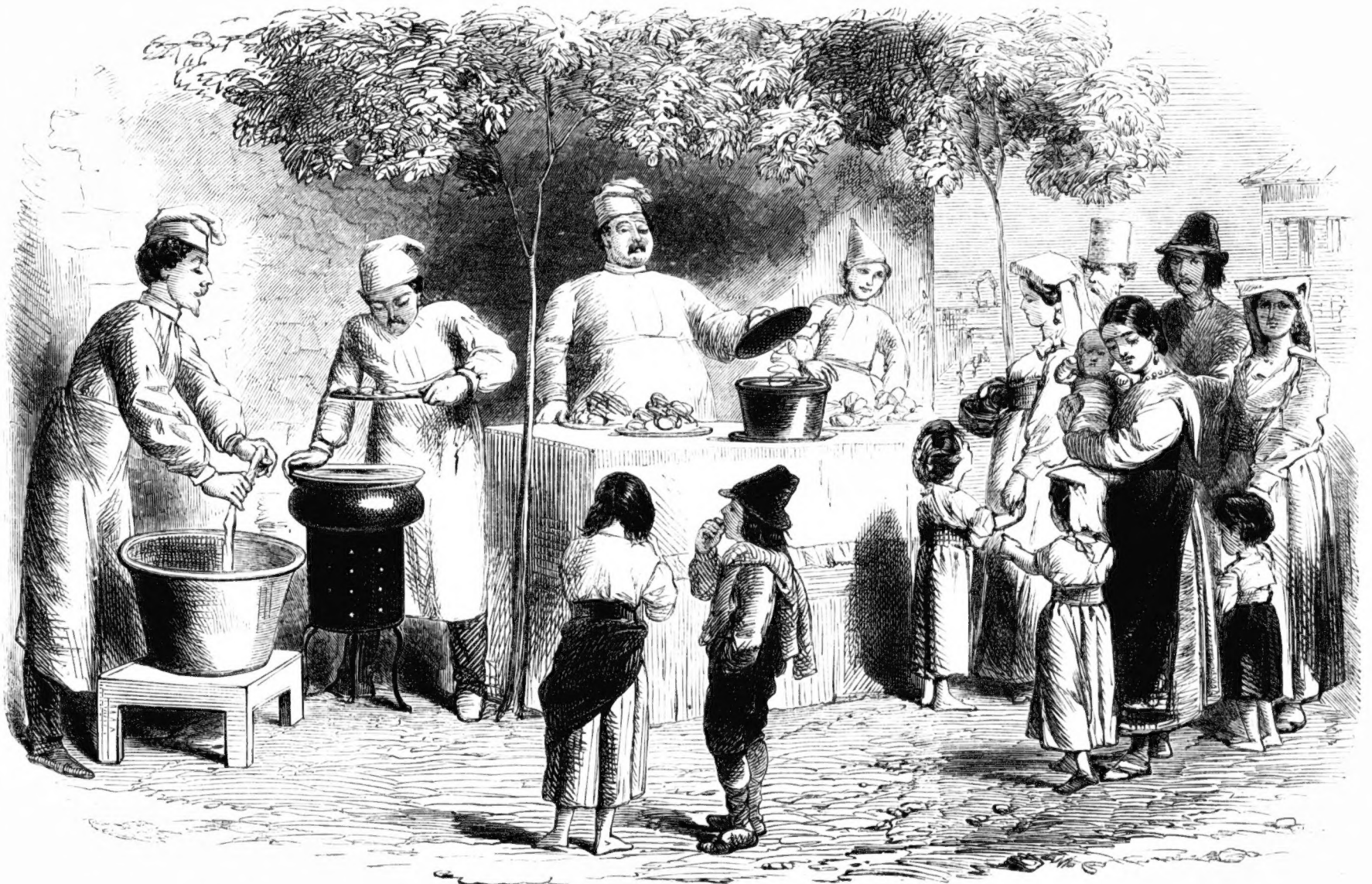
THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN ROME.

THE 25th of March is a day which the Romans commemorate by eating fritters in such quantities, that were they composed of more solid substances than they are, would certainly subject the epicurean children of Romulus to an attack of indigestion. Numerous stalls for the concoction and sale of these savoury compounds are to be met with in every street, and each is sure to be surrounded by a crowd of voracious consumers. The *chefs*, for a wonder, are marvellous specimens of cleanliness, when we consider that to be unwashed is not the least prominent characteristic of the modern Romans. It is evident, from our artist's sketch, that the old proverb of "Too many cooks spoil the broth" does not apply to the fabrication of fritters—for here we have four culinary chiefs, each sedulously engaged in preparing the succulent morsels for consumption.



RUBY MOUNTAINS, NEAR KOROSKO, NUBIA.

NEW PEERAGES AND BARONETCIES.
—Lord Derby, it is said, has recommended to the Queen three gentlemen of his own party for elevation to the peerage. The first is Sir Charles Morgan, of Tredegar, Monmouthshire; the second, Mr. Egerton, of Tatton, Cheshire, who, after the decision in the House of Lords upon the celebrated will case, divided the Bridgewater property with Lord Alford; and the third on the list is Colonel George Wyndham, of Petworth, Sussex. Six baronetcies, it is currently stated, are to be created; and the following gentlemen have been chosen by Rumour for the distinction:—The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Disraeli), Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Sotherton Estcourt, Colonel Taylor, Colonel Forrester, and Mr. William Deedes. In some quarters, it has been said that the Earl of Derby will nominate Mr. Henley for one of the baronetcies, notwithstanding his recent defection from the Ministerial ranks.



SALE OF FRITTERS IN THE STREETS OF ROME ON THE DAY OF THE ANNUNCIATION.—(FROM A SKETCH BY MISS PRISCILLA FRIMROSE.)

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock. There was a rather larger attendance of peers than usual, and the bar was crowded with members of the other House.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said he had a question to put to the noble lord the Foreign Secretary, to which he should be glad of an answer, if one could be given without endangering the peace of the world. He wished to learn whether any instructions had been sent to Lord Elgin to negotiate with the Chinese Government respecting the admission of British salt into that empire, and whether any communication had been received from him on the subject?

The Earl of Malmesbury was quite of opinion that the question of the Noble Lord might be put to him without embarrassing her Majesty's Government. Lord Elgin had received no instructions with respect to the admission of salt into China, because it was thought better to leave the matter entirely in his discretion. But when the tariff came home, her Majesty's Government found that no arrangement had been made with regard to salt, and that it still remained a contraband article. When Mr. Bruce went out, about a month ago, he was charged to exert himself, with a view to have it put upon another footing, and he (Lord Malmesbury) understood Mr. Bruce believed that to be practicable.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The Earl of Derby said—In moving that this House do now adjourn, I trust, my Lords, that my silence with respect to the state of public affairs will not be construed into any indifference to or disparagement of the consequences which must result from the vote of last night. On the contrary, I considered that vote to be so serious that I felt it necessary to invite my colleagues to meet me at an early hour this morning; and after the Cabinet I had an audience of her Majesty at Buckingham Palace. I have not the sanction of her Majesty to make any communication to your Lordships as to what has taken place; but I think the state of affairs is so critical, and the consequences of the vote last night must be so important, that, considering the House of Commons has adjourned till Monday next, I shall best consult the convenience of your Lordships, and the convenience of the public, and I shall also best show my sense of the gravity of the occasion, by postponing till Monday next the offering of any statement. I hope that I shall at that time be prepared to lay before your Lordships the advice which I and my colleagues have felt it our duty to tender to her Majesty, and the course which, with her Majesty's sanction, we propose to adopt.

Their Lordships then adjourned till Monday.

MONDAY, APRIL 4.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

MINISTERIAL INTENTIONS.

The Earl of Derby, in a crowded and excited House, rose to explain the course which the Government had determined to adopt upon pending circumstances. After alluding to the importance of the vote passed in the Commons on Thursday night, he proceeded to examine the conditions under which it had been carried, and while recognising on his own part the support of a large and united Conservative party, remarked upon the divisions into which the Liberal section of the Legislature was broken up. The consequence of the decision which had been come to by this assembly of motley politicians was, that but two alternatives were left for himself and colleagues—either to resign office, or to dissolve the present Parliament and appeal to the country. It had been suggested, both by their friends and by their enemies, that another course was open to the Government, but such a course would not have been respectful to the House of Commons, nor in unison with constitutional practice. Besides, it was impossible for her Majesty's Government to conceal from themselves that the vote of the House of Commons was equivalent to a vote of want of confidence, and the Government would have laid themselves open to a grave charge, if they took no notice of such a decision. Before stating the course which the Government intended to pursue, he begged their Lordships to remember the circumstances under which he had accepted office, and the difficulties with which he had had to contend. The present distracted state of parties in the House of Commons rendered it almost impossible to administer the affairs of the nation; a condition of things which he illustrated by an enumeration of the various political achievements of Lord John Russell, whose ability and energy as an advocate of Reform every one would acknowledge. To that question the Noble Lord was constitutionally attached, but attached less with the affection of a parent, anxious for the prosperity and advancement of his offspring, than with the jealous affection of a lover, ready to sacrifice anything to obtain the beloved object, but ready also to die rather than that that object should receive any attention, or owe either happiness or advancement, to any other person. It had been the peculiar fortune of Lord John Russell, from the restless energy of his disposition, to overthrow many Governments, not only of his opponents, but also of his friends. The consequence of such conduct was that hardly a year now passed without a ministerial crisis, and if the system were persevered in it would put an end to all government, for it inflicted injury at home and damaged the influence of the country abroad. In accepting office, he had endeavoured to carry on the Government, not by embittering, but by conciliating all parties, until a party should be formed capable of carrying out a fixed and definite policy. Among the difficulties of his position not the least arose from the necessity of dealing with the question of parliamentary reform. This duty had been bequeathed to him as a sort of "damnum hereditas" by preceding administrations. He had introduced a bill to meet that question. The way that bill had been received was well known to their Lordships. It had not been suffered to be read a second time, or to be amended in committee, but had been swamped without discussion. Had the bill been proceeded with in committee, he and his colleagues were prepared to vindicate its principles as well as to consider proposed alterations, which, if admissible, no false pride would have prevented them from accepting. An opportunity had thus been given to the House of Commons to settle the question, but they had preferred the interests of party to the interests of the country. In his speech in the House of Commons, Lord Palmerston had said that the Government should be condemned to keep their places, and do "our" bidding. He begged to tell Lord Palmerston they would do no one's bidding but that of the Queen and of their own consciences. But whose bidding were they to do? Was it that of the Liberal party? Not twenty-five men among them would have agreed as to the injunctions to be placed on the submissive and humble slaves—her Majesty's Ministers. He would not disguise from the House the difficulty in which the Cabinet was placed by the refusal of the second reading of the bill. There were but two courses open to them: the first was to dissolve Parliament as soon as was consistent with the public service; and the second to tender their resignation to her Majesty. Considering the present grave condition of European affairs, and the domestic interests of the country, he had deemed it his duty to submit these alternatives to her Majesty, who had accepted the former without hesitation; and he looked with confidence to the appeal about to be made to the country. The Ministers, he considered, had redeemed their promise by the introduction of the bill, and held themselves free on that ground. He was not afraid to go to the hustings on this question, for the measure, which had been, by the decision of the other House, deferred to another session, was a large and liberal measure; much mischief had been done by that decision, and no principle produced on which any future reform bill might be based. It was not, however, on the reform question only he appealed to the country. The Government made the appeal as men who had endeavoured faithfully to discharge the duties of their office; they would appeal to Englishmen and lovers of fair play, whether they would sanction the overthrow of a government which had been defeated, not by fair parliamentary opposition, but by what he must really term an ingenious manoeuvre.

Earl GRANVILLE confessed that the days of party government, in the old acceptance of the term, were passed away. He nevertheless contended that no administration could properly fulfil their duties if they did not possess a policy, and enjoy the confidence of a majority in the House of Commons. He vindicated the Liberal party from the charge of disunion, and censured Lord Derby for attacking absent individuals. There was, he maintained, nothing in the information before the House which justified the assertion that peace would be endangered if the present Administration were forced to resign. Respecting the Reform Bill, he observed that its principles had been objected to by two former colleagues of the Government, condemned by a majority of the Commons, and now, it appeared, abandoned by its own authors. The course adopted by the Ministry, though involving a serious responsibility, was, he admitted, perfectly legitimate and constitutional. He thought, however, the House ought to have been better informed on what precise issues the appeal to the country was to be rested.

The subject then dropped.

Some further business was disposed of, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE RESULT OF THE REFORM BILL DEBATE.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made the anticipated statement regarding the future course of her Majesty's Ministers. Referring to the recent vote, he declared that they neither intended to proceed with their Reform Bill nor to introduce any other measure on the subject. Nevertheless, he claimed for the Conservatives the full right to deal with that or any other subject. Parliamentary reform was a question which should not be allowed to become a personal appanage, or the property of any political

party. The question of parliamentary reform, he observed, might be viewed in two lights—Conservative and revolutionary. Those who regarded it, like the Government, in the first point of view, would wish, in any change, to preserve the present character of the House of Commons, as representing various interests; those who looked at it in the other light would attempt to change its character, and make it the representative of the voice of the numerical majority. The vote of the House had rendered it necessary for the Government to consider their position in that House; and, influenced by three powerful considerations, they had determined to retain their office, under circumstances which, he admitted, involved a degree of mortification, but with a feeling that, on the whole, they were doing their duty to the country. Considering the state of parties in that House; that a number of sections could at any moment combine and overthrow the Queen's Government, in whatever hands; and believing that such a state of things was prejudicial to the reputation of Parliament and to the best interests of the empire, and that it was important that the authority of the Government should be supported by the authority of Parliament, the Government had advised her Majesty, who had adopted and sanctioned this advice, to exercise her prerogative, and, by dissolving the present Parliament, to recur to the sense of her people. Under these circumstances, it was his duty to inform the House that, as soon as the urgent requirements of the public service were satisfied, Parliament would be prorogued, with a view to its immediate dissolution.

LORD PALMERSTON reciprocated the compliment which Mr. Disraeli had pronounced upon the conduct of the Opposition. With regard to the late vote, he submitted that it did not amount to a vote of censure, nor did he agree in the conclusion that the Government were bound to dissolve or resign whenever the House expressed any disapprobation of certain provisions in their measures. The Administration had brought in their bill in satisfaction of a pledge not originally given by themselves, and though they had failed, this discomfiture need not have compelled them to take the step they had now announced. As it was, however, he acknowledged that the proceeding was legitimate. He did not offer any obstacle to their carrying out the advice they had given to her Majesty, but he thought it was very unwise advice. The question that would be put to the country was, not what men should be in office, but what should be the Reform Bill to be brought in by the Government. If he were to attempt to prophesy the result, he should say that the Parliament which the present Government would call together would be far more likely than the present to decide that power ought to be transferred to other hands. He entreated them to take the earliest moment to dissolve Parliament; great embarrassment and inconvenience would result from delay.

MR. BRIGHT felt with many members that the course adopted by the Government would lead to a large amount of personal inconvenience; but, under all the circumstances of the case, it was impossible for him to come to any other conclusion than that the Government had taken the constitutional course they were bound to take. They had been defeated by a majority exceeding one-half of the members of the House, and the question ought to be remitted to the constituency before it was reproduced for adjudication there. But while he applauded the course they had taken, he protested against the attempt of Mr. Disraeli to get up a little political capital by representing that the country had the option between his own measure, Conservative in its character, and one that was revolutionary. He (Mr. Bright) was not afraid of the tribunal before which the Government were about to bring this question. Any measure of reform he should propose would be in the lines of that of 1832; if that would be revolutionary, he did not understand the meaning of the term. He warned the members of the Government, when they went to the hustings, against making such a charge as this; if they did so, they must take the consequences. He should like to go to this election in a spirit of calmness, and, the Government giving all the figures, to discuss the question fairly.

LORD J. RUSSELL defended his resolution both as to its principle and its terms. He denied that by introducing it he in the slightest degree compromised the interests of peace, inquiring why the Government had brought forward their bill if the discussion which it was sure to provoke was so dangerous. The appeal to the country on the question was, he thought, very judicious. The present Parliament was quite competent to deal with the subject; and the Ministry ought, he thought, to have exhausted every means of passing a satisfactory measure before resorting to the extreme measure of a dissolution. LORD JOHN then indicated the provisions of the Reform Bill of which he should have approved, which included a £10 franchise in counties and £6 in boroughs, the introduction of several of what were called "fancy franchises," the preservation of the votes enjoyed by the freemen, and a large admission of the working classes to electoral privileges. The question relating to the disfranchisement of small boroughs and redistribution of seats ought, he considered, to be dealt with in a separate measure. His proposition was to withdraw 26 members from that number of the least populous boroughs now returning two representatives. These, with the four vacancies already existing, would give 30 seats for the larger centres of population. To the ballot he still retained his objection, and should vote against every proposal for introducing that system in any scheme of reform.

A discussion of some length and of a miscellaneous character ensued, in the course of which,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the prorogation would probably take place about the time he should have moved the adjournment for the holidays. He said there was no foundation for the statement that the Ministry had contemplated resignation.

The subject then dropped.

INDIAN FINANCE.

LORD STANLEY, in moving the third reading of the India Loan Bill, entered into various details respecting the previous loans which had been raised for Indian purposes, either at home or in Hindostan; the deficiencies in the Indian exchequer caused by the late revolt; and the financial exigencies for which provision had to be made. In the year 1857-8 the deficiency was estimated at nine millions, and in 1858-9 at thirteen millions. These were met by loans already contracted. During the ensuing year one million increase was anticipated in the revenues from taxation, and a large saving would, it was hoped, be accomplished by the release of many regiments now on service in the country. Lord Canning had taken steps to raise a further loan in Calcutta, and had computed that four or four and a half millions more would suffice to meet the requirements of the coming financial year. There was, however, no intention of asking any larger borrowing powers than were included in the bill on the table, during the continuance of the present Parliament.

MR. V. SMITH, MR. VANITTART, MR. CRAWFORD, SIR H. WILLOUGHBY, SIR C. WOOD, COLONEL SYKES, and other members having followed with remarks upon the financial and political state of India,

The bill was read a third time and passed.

Some other business having been disposed of, the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE DIVORCE COURT.

LORD CAMPBELL called the attention of the House to the insufficient number of the judges in the Divorce Court, and objected to the mode of procedure of the court, which was, he thought, open to abuses.

The LORD CHANCELLOR agreed with Lord Campbell about the deficient number of judges of the Divorce Court. He had heard from the Judge-Ordinary of that court that it was impossible to carry on the present business of the court without assistance.

After a few words from Lord CHANCEWORTH, the subject dropped.

INDIAN FINANCE.

The India Loan Bill was brought up from the Commons, and read a first time.

The Earl of DERBY stated that when the bill was brought forward for second reading on Thursday he should move the suspension of the standing orders, with the view of passing the measure through all its remaining stages, that it might receive the royal assent before the departure of the India mail of Saturday (to-day).

The Recreation Grounds Bill was read a second time.

The Patent Inventions (munitions of war) Bill passed through committee. The Manslaughter Bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved that Government orders of the day should have precedence of other business on every evening during the remainder of the session.

The motion was carried, after some remonstrances from Mr. SPOONER, who complained that he was thus deprived of the opportunity to move his resolution for the withdrawal of the grant to Maynooth.

MR. H. BARKLEY stated that, in default of better opportunity, he should introduce his ballot resolution as an amendment on the motion for going into committee of supply.

MR. DILLWYN, on behalf of Sir J. Trevelyan, postponed the Church-rates Bill, and MR. J. D. FITZGERALD postponed the Roman Catholic Oaths Bill until next session.

The discussion in committee of the Superannuation Bill was then resumed, and the remaining clauses passed after some considerable discussion.

The Public Offices Extension Bill and the Indemnity Bill were read a third time and passed.

THE GALWAY PACKET SERVICE.

MR. HORSFALL called attention to the subject of the intended mail service between Galway and America. This service, he complained, had been assigned to a particular line of steamers—the Galway Packet Line—without the usual advertisement for public tenders.

SIR S. NORTHCOTE explained the reasons which had induced the Government to waive some of the ordinary conditions when granting the contract for a postal service with America to the company in question.

Considerable discussion followed, in which the merits of the Galway packet line, and the conduct of the Government in granting the subsidy for the postal service, were canvassed at much length, chiefly by the Irish members. The subject at last dropped, and the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE DISSOLUTION.

LORD PALMERSTON rose to make a personal explanation. He had been accused in another place, and by a person of great authority in the country, of disputing the prerogative of the Crown to dissolve Parliament. No man in his senses who knew anything of the constitution could dispute that authority; and nothing had ever fallen from him which could lead to a contrary construction. What he said was that the House of Commons must be a consenting party to its own dissolution, inasmuch as it must vote supplies on account before the prerogative of the Crown could be exercised, and that was precisely the course they were now taking. He agreed that under the circumstances it was the best course to take; because it was a direct acceptance of the challenge which those gentlemen had thrown out to the Opposition, but there was an alternative course that the House could have adopted, and that was not to vote supplies on account, but to insist upon the budget being produced, and the whole estimates of the year disposed of before Parliament was dissolved. It might then have happened that in the course of its proceedings the House of Commons might have addressed the Crown to dismiss its present advisers, which would be perfectly constitutional, and then the proposal for a dissolution would have entirely fallen to the ground. It was in this sense, and this sense only, that he had referred to the prerogative of the Crown. The House of Commons had wisely determined to leave the responsibility of the dissolution to rest with the Government. He would refer to one other point of a personal nature. He and his Noble Friend the Member for the City of London, had been in accord upon the resolution which had defeated the Government Reform Bill. His Noble Friend had since given an outline of the measure of reform he was prepared to propose; he entirely concurred in the principles assimilated in that outline, namely, a reduction of the county franchise and a reduction of the borough franchise; but with regard to the limit to which those principles should be carried, he held the same opinion that he had already expressed on the subject.

SIR J. PAKINGTON congratulated the Noble Lord upon the altered tone of his speech of to-day and Monday as compared with that which he delivered on the Reform Bill. The Noble Lord then used the strongest language against throat, and both his tone and manner betrayed a want of respect for the Crown.

SIR G. GREY said the Government must not be allowed to shift the responsibility of the dissolution from their own shoulders on to that of the House. It had been thrown out by some of the Ministry that the step might be productive of serious consequences, if it would not absolutely endanger the peace of Europe, and in face of that declaration the House had wisely resolved to leave the responsibility of the dissolution with her Majesty's Government. The issue upon which they were going to the country, however, must not be concealed or frittered away. The House had passed a resolution condemning the two main features of the Government Reform Bill, and in face of that defeat the Government had preferred to risk the dangers of a dissolution to giving the House the opportunity of passing the Reform Bill which it had declared itself to be favourable to.

COLONEL FAIRBANKS contended that constitutionally the Government had no fair right to dissolve, unless they were satisfied that there was a reasonable prospect of their strengthening their position upon the very question upon which they had been defeated.

MR. MALINS protested that the resolution of the Noble Lord the member for the City was tantamount to a vote of want of confidence in the Government; and the appeal about to be made to the country was nothing more nor less than whether they had confidence or not in her Majesty's present advisers.

SIR G. C. LEWIS was of a different opinion. The Government must not be allowed to go to the country upon a false issue. The question to be put to the country should not be, Have you confidence in the Government? but, Will you take this bill as a settlement of the question of reform?

AFTER some further discussion, in which MR. B. OSBORNE, MR. SOMERSET EASTCOTE, MR. LINDSAY, LORD NAAS, SIR H. WILLOUGHBY, SIR F. BAKING, and other Honourable Members took part, the subject dropped, and the House went into committee of supply, when several votes on account were passed.

After some further business, the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the motion for the second reading of the India Loan Bill, LORD DERBY said that the House would look on this bill as a grant on account which it was necessary to obtain before the dissolution of Parliament, but that a further sum of £3,000,000 would be required. In answer to various questions which had been put, he informed the House that a day of thanksgiving for our successes in India was about to be appointed, and that a vote of thanks was to be given to Lord Clyde and the officers and troops under his command. He then proceeded to detail the steps which had been taken to reduce the enormous military expenditure. The number of Europeans of all arms in India was 112,000, to which a native army of about 320,000, inclusive of police, was joined. The native army at the present moment exceeded by 50,000 men the native army which existed before the mutiny. Orders had been sent out to reduce as far as possible the native troops, and to prohibit new levies. Out of the eighty-five regiments of Queen's troops ten were to be sent home; but this could not be done at once, as it would be attended with great expense, and would derange the estimates by increasing the expenditure for troops in this country. He would not express an opinion on the number of European troops necessary for a peace establishment; but if, as had been proposed, 80,000 Europeans and a native force of 200,000 were to be kept up, it would require an expenditure of at least £15,000,000 a year—a sum which the revenue of India could not be expected to pay; and therefore a great reduction of those numbers would be necessary. The reductions which were about to be made would be a cessation of extensive field operations and extraordinary commands, a diminution of the native army and of the British troops in India. This would require great caution, and must not be done in too great haste, as it would be necessary for some time to keep a large force in India.

The Duke of ARGYLE wished to have the principle strongly and at once enunciated, that under no circumstances should the British Exchequer be made responsible for Indian debts. This he insisted upon as a measure of justice both to England and India; the creditors of the Government in Hindostan having, as he observed, lent their money exclusively upon the credit of the local government, obtained a correspondingly high rate of interest in consequence.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH entirely agreed with the Duke of Argyle on the question of guarantees, not so much as regarded England as for the injury it would inflict on India. In an exceptional case like this Loan Bill, however, it might be advisable to extend the protection of a guarantee. After describing the way in which much of the recent debt had been incurred, he felt convinced that the only means to arrive at a satisfactory result was to reduce the native army, and he suggested that 100,000 persons should be struck off the roll. The European force, however, ought to be double what it was before the mutiny, and with such an increase of its numbers it could easily hold the country. It would be a dangerous experiment to discharge these 100,000 men at once, as the chances are that they would one and all become Pindarees, but their discharge should be spread over a period of four or five years. A revision of taxation, he hoped, would soon compel the wealthy native to pay those taxes from which he was now exempt, and which fell with all their weight on his poor brethren. The real difficulties of Indian finance were to be met not merely by lightening taxation, but by good government, in order to render the people content, and so to dispense with the presence of a large military force.

LORD ALBEMARLE quoted a mass of figures to prove that the energies of the people of India were crushed beneath the weight of taxation, paying, as they do, at the rate of 16s. or 18s. in the pound. He deprecated the levying of Customs' duties on those hardly-taxed people, and proposed instead an export duty on the staple commodities of India, as such taxes would be paid by the wealthy foreigner, and not by the rack-rented Hindoo.

AFTER a short conversation between Lords DERBY, ELLENBOROUGH, DONOUGHMORE, and MONTEAGLE,

The bill was read a second time, was committed, was read a third time, and passed.

The Orders of the Day were then disposed of, and the House adjourned at half-past eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LORD PALMERSTON announced that he should on Friday evening call attention to the state of our foreign relations, and ask her Majesty's ministers to explain the precise position to be held by England as mediator or negotiator in the pending discussion at Paris, or in the future Congress to be held elsewhere, with respect to the affairs of Italy and Europe in general.

The Superannuation Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Combination of Workmen Bill was passed through committee; and

several measures having been advanced on a stage, the House adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.

THE PROLOGUE.—The "Globe" has "good reason for anticipating that the business before the House of Commons, which it will be necessary to dispose of, will be got through by the 16th instant, so that the prorogation may take place on that day. The dissolution would immediately follow, and the new writs would be issued the same evening, as was the case at the dissolution of 1857."

NEWS FROM HANOVER states that the French Ambassador was recently placed to quit the Theatre Royal, in consequence of an anti-French demonstration of the audience. The Royal Family was present at the time.

A GRAND DISPLAY OF FAUCONRY is to take place on Lincoln Common at the latter end of June, under the auspices of the Deputy Grand Falconer of England.

THE FIELD DAYS at Aldershot commenced at the beginning of next month. The commanding officers of all the regiments are setting up their corps again after the comparative inaction of winter by close attention to squad and company drill.

IN SENTENCING A MAN for passing bad half-crowns at Birkenhead, Mr. Justice Hill stated that the judges had unanimously come to the conclusion that on a second conviction for uttering false coin they would invariably inflict the punishment of penal servitude.

THE NAVIES OF ENGLAND AND FRANCE.—On Thursday a report was issued by the committee appointed on the 1st of December last, on the subject of the increase which has taken place of late years in the navy estimates. The committee were also to undertake the delicate and difficult task of tracing the progress of the navy of France since the year 1852, as compared with that of England, and to ascertain, if possible, the present condition of the French navy as regards docks and works, including the construction and armament of ships of war. The increase is partly accounted for by the additional number of seamen, the votes for provisions, purchase of naval stores, and construction of new docks. The great expense, however, which has added to the navy estimates for many years past, and which will continue to add to them for several future years, must be attributed to the necessity which has arisen for the substitution of a steam for a sailing fleet. The committee enter at some length into statistics, showing the comparative state of the navies of England and France, and state that the progress which the latter has made, and may hereafter make, in the formation of a steam navy, is a consideration which cannot be overlooked in determining the amount of our future naval expenditure.

LORD CAMPBELL ON MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.—Lord Campbell writes to the "Scotsman," regretting that his judicial duties on the Midland Circuit prevented his being present at the debate in the House of Lords on the second reading of the bill for legalising marriages between widowers and the sisters of their deceased wives. His Lordship says:—"I should have been proud during the debate to have proclaimed the abhorrence with which almost universally this innovation is viewed in my native country. Although Scotland was not included in the bill, Scotland did well to protest against it; for an additional objection to it was that it proposed to establish a different law as to the essentials of the marriage contract in different parts of the United Kingdom, and if the bill were to pass, Scotland could not long maintain her existing cherished law against incestuous marriages, which I believe to be agreeable to Scripture, which is sanctioned by the Confession of Faith, and by a Scottish Act of Parliament, and which is so highly conducive to the purity and happiness of domestic life."—[Is not the grammar of this last sentence rather confused?]

NEW PICTURES FOR THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—Seven pictures have been placed in our National Gallery:—1. "St. Dominic as the Instructor of the heathen," ascribed to Marco Zuppo. 2. A small expressive picture of "St. Francis contemplating a Crucifix," by Filippo Lippi; both from the Gesta Gallery at Ferrara. 3. A picture representing the "Dead Christ," with other figures, by Marco Palmezzano. 4. "The Madonna adoring the Child sleeping on her lap," by Marco Basaiti. 5. "The Madonna and Child," by Giambattista Cima da Conegliano. 6. "A Bust Portrait of a Lady," by Battista Zelotti. The seventh acquisition, a very carefully finished picture by a living painter of Belgium—"The Blind Beggar," by Ickmans—has been added to the pictures in what is called the Flemish Room: it is a bequest from the late Miss Clarke, of Regent Street.

CHINESE WRECKERS.—The merchant steamer Five Brothers, on a voyage between Hong-Kong to Swatow and Amoy, struck on a sunken rock, about eight yards from the Cuchi point. She had not been on shore an hour before the Chinese brought a small gun down and opened fire. One of the Messrs. Dent's clipper schooners bore down to the wreck, and took off some of the passengers, and also succeeded in getting the treasure out. The other passengers, being Chinese, thought they would be all right, but they were seized on landing, and killed. The schooner arrived at Hong-Kong the following day (Sunday, the 30th of January), and reported the affair. Her Majesty's steamer Niger, with the gun-boat Plover in tow, and with H.M.S. Nimrod, with the chief officer of the Five Brothers on board, proceeded to the scene of the outrage. On their arrival they sent all boats manned and armed to the principal town. Of course there was some difficulty in obtaining a sight of the chief mandarin, but at length he made his appearance, and was informed that unless he told where the property was, and who committed the murders, his town would be burnt down. He promised to send off in the evening, but delayed until the morning, when just as the boats were about to leave the ship, two Chinamen came off to the Niger with the names of the villages that had committed the robbery and murders. The boats then went away to inflict punishment. The small-arm men and marines from the Niger and Nimrod landed. At the first village, the "braves" turned out with flags, &c., and the interpreter heard one singing out: "Now if you want to fight, come on!" But the Nimrod's crew sent a rocket amongst the mob, another quickly followed from the Niger's rocket party, and the "braves" showed their heels. The head man came out and offered 500 dollars, which was accepted. Boats then went and set fire to the suburbs of the second village. The mandarins soon came down and begged for mercy, which was granted on the payment of 2,000 dollars.

LONDON RENEWED.—The fact that the commerce and traffic of London has fairly outgrown the capabilities of the city, regarded in its brick and mortar aspect—in reference to its streets, its highways, bye-ways, and bridges, is becoming plainer and plainer every day. A committee of the Metropolitan Board of Works took the subject into consideration about a year and a half ago, and a report has now been presented, which the Board, at one of its "ordinary weekly meetings," was recently engaged in discussing. The look of the document is enough to take away one's breath. There are five-and-forty items, mostly going by hundreds of thousands and some by millions, the main drainage itself being almost lost in the rack. The report puts the gross demand at £19,815,521, but insinuates that the "net" charge may, by possibility, be brought down to the comparatively easy figure of £15,674,951. For this allowance, to be sure, the committee would do a good deal. They would build ten new streets, not to mention branches, continuations, viaducts, and approaches. They would widen twenty-two of the old streets, so as to make the thoroughfares more capacious and useful. They would embank the Thames, north and south of the stream, all the way between London Bridge and Westminster; they would lay up the tolls of Southwark and Waterloo bridges, expand Hungerford Suspension-bridge; and, finally, form two entirely new parks for the recreation of the metropolitan community. These are the conclusions of the committee as to what is wanted to fit London for its uses, all gravely propounded and elaborately appraised. However, the Board confined its resolutions on the subject to proceedings of an eminently neutral and preliminary character. The plans were ordered to be printed, to be put into circulation, and to be "taken further into consideration on a future day."

A NOBLE SWINDLER.—A certain French count, not of the postiche class so common in the present day, but of bona fide noblesse, and who not long ago filled the office of Prefect in one of the departments, and was very recently named officer of the Legion of Honour, is now in prison on a charge of swindling. It appears that, having dressed up a friend of his in the uniform of a general officer, he introduced him to the projectors of a salt-petre manufacturing company, as aide-de-camp to the Minister-at-War; and offered on the part of the War-office to give a large order, on condition of receiving a handsome consideration for the Minister, and for certain persons attached to that department. The offer was further supported by a pretended letter from another general attached to the Imperial household. The letter was forged, as well as the soi-disant general, whose uniform had been hired of a well-known Parisian costumier. A sum of 50,000*fr.* was obtained from the company, who seemed to have no suspicion of the costly hoax that was thus played off. The discovery was brought about in a curious manner. It happened to be on Sunday week last, when the Imperial Guard was reviewed, that the costumier was applied to for the uniform. That day was fixed out to avoid suspicion, the general officers in Paris being in attendance on the Emperor during the review, and consequently in full dress. Hardly had the tradesman furnished the costume, when the suspicion glanced across his mind that it was for the use of some dangerous person who for sinister purposes wished to join the cortege. He gave information to the police, who went on the track of the "General," and discovered the affair. The count was, it appears, well known in society, and on the night before his arrest he was present at one of the ministerial balls. The directors of the company are, it is said, also to be prosecuted. They richly deserve punishment for supposing for an instant that any public man of the present day could accept such a transaction.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

THE suite of apartments occupied by the Society of British Artists, in Suffolk Street, are without doubt handsomely furnished. The pictures with which the walls are hung are not exactly master-pieces, but out of the eight hundred and twenty works exhibited, a large proportion are really interesting and meritorious productions. Of course there is a dearth of what is called "high art;" of course, too, a great many popular artists continue to paint the same pictures which they have been exposing to the public admiration for years past, and which they will in all probability continue to expose for many happy years to come. For this persistence in representing, season after season, the same faces, figures, groups, incidents, and landscapes, the artists, as men of conscientiousness and good taste, must certainly be blamed to some extent; but the chief fault lies, after all, with the public, who, hearing that Mr. So-and-So is great at a certain kind of landscape, and that Mr. Something Else is not to be equalled in his portrayal (we will say) of school-boy life, will have nothing but well-known, twenty-times repeated "views" from the former, and pictures of fat good-for-nothing urchins from the latter. It takes some time for an artist to make a reputation in any one branch of painting, and having made it, we can understand his unwillingness to take up another—not necessarily because he would fail in such an attempt, or because he loves routine, but for the simple reason that his habitual purchasers would in all probability be unable to see the merit of his new style. On the other hand, it may be questioned whether most of our painters do not abuse their privilege to repeat themselves, and whether the *élite*, at least, of the frequenters of our galleries are not quite capable of appreciating art in whatever form it may manifest itself.

However this may be, there have been several departures this year from the accustomed beat, some of which make us inclined to wern the painters from ground which evidently is not theirs. It was meritorious, no doubt, of Mr. Hurlstone to devise something new for the delectation of the visitors to that gallery of which he is the principal director, and has long been one of the chief supports. But what are we to say to his two large paintings, illustrative of scenes from "Hamlet" and "Othello?" The "Hamlet" scene is that in which the prince, during his interview with the queen, sees the ghost of his father—for the second time, he it remembered. The picture, theatrical as it is, is painted with some power; but what must strike every one as the weak point in it, is the terrified expression of Hamlet, who, so far from looking either courageous or philosophical (both of which he was), is represented as simply "in a fright." The Prince of Denmark has just killed Polonius, and is hesitating about addressing to his mother the reproaches he has meditated, when the ghost appears to strengthen him in his failing intention. The visitation "is but to what his blunted purpose;" and Hamlet was impressed, but not terrified by it. There is neither majesty, nor remorse, nor any sort of expression in the figure of the queen, which, in short, is undignified and common-place.

In Mr. Hurlstone's other large picture, there is an attempt to grapple with the great scene in "Othello" between Desdemona and the Moor—"Give me your hand: this hand is moist, my lady," &c. The countenance and figure of the dark-complexioned Oriental are finely painted, but there is really no jealousy depicted in the face—and it must be admitted that it would be difficult to be jealous of any attention paid to such a Desdemona as Mr. Hurlstone has represented.

A large work of the historical class, contributed by Mr. Salter, illustrates the appeal of Lady Raleigh to James I. when that base and cruel monarch had confiscated Sir Walter's estate. The figure of Lady Raleigh is the best thing in the picture, which is carefully painted, though it certainly cannot be admitted even to a low place in that *bourgeois-historic* school of which M. Muller appears at present to be the head, and of which the most distinguished master was the late Paul Delaroche.

But, before we say a word more on the subject of artistic imperfections, let us look at the picture by Mr. T. Roberts, styled "Opinion of the Press." We feel as we approach it, that we ought to tremble; that the artist expects it of us; but we suppose we are hardened, for we regard it unmoved. We have already learned the subject of the picture from the catalogue. It is founded on the following extract from a letter:—"Mr. — has just left us; he brought one of the public journals, containing a criticism on my dear husband's picture, and a letter from —, declining to complete the purchase. Come as soon as you can, for we are in much trouble." The artist and his wife are both highly interesting, and both exceedingly young, in spite of the fact that they have a little boy, who is several years removed from infancy. Mr. —, who brought the "public journal," is descending those stairs down which he deserves to be kicked for showing his friend the adverse criticism. (Why *will* these friends always bring you the earliest copy of the newspaper which cuts up your novel or condemns your play?) On the easel is the picture which the writer in the "public journal," like a just critic and an honest man, has, through his article, prevented a weak-minded member of the British public from buying. It was doubtless very natural for the young artist to wish to take in this *bourgeois*, this *Philistee*, of a purchaser; but the good man subscribes to a paper, and is not to be deceived. His critic has told him that a "Prometheus Vincens," painted by a gentleman who can have no sort of sympathy for that culture-tormented mythical personage, is not a thing to be desired, however well the figure of the Prometheus may be drawn (for we are willing to grant that the execution was good). From his age, and from the subject he has chosen, it is evident that the young critic-tormented painter (for doubtless he is the Prometheus and we the culture) has not long left the Academy, and he ought, if the truth were in him, to thank the journalist for endeavouring to deter him from a path in which he could never hope to succeed. Even Mr. Roberts requires to be told that the natural object of painting is not to teach or to demonstrate. He has endeavoured, in a picture of some merit, to show the injurious effect of newspaper criticism on the sale of works of art. But would it not be just as easy to produce a picture, in which the "Prometheus" should be represented as having been sold in consequence of the artist having been called a pictorial *Aschylus*, or otherwise complimented and puffed? A third, moreover, might be painted representing the effect of injudicious criticism on buyers, and the despair of a purchaser who, on the faith of a too-benevolent newspaper paragraph, has given a hundred pounds for a picture which a connoisseur assures him is not worth a crown.

Among the landscapes, the most remarkable in the Exhibition is Mr. J. B. Pyne's view of the city of Genoa, from the new terrace, which is certainly the finest picture in the gallery. The picturesque architecture of the city, the multicoloured groups that throng the quay, the waters of the gulf covered with brilliantly-painted craft, and the distant expanse of the Mediterranean, combine to form one of the most charming, artistically-treated scenes that can be imagined.

Among the other landscapes of merit, we must call attention in the first place to Mr. Pettitt's "Blackpool on the Lieder," North Wales, and the "Torrent-Sculptured Bed of the Conway," also in North Wales, by the same artist. "Spring Time," by Vicat Cole, may also be mentioned as a good specimen of a thoroughly English landscape.

Among the numerous pictures of country life, or landscapes with figures, Mr. Hill's "Weary Shepherd-Boy" is remarkable rather for the weariness of the boy, and the general air of repose about the scene, than for any very shepherd-like look presented by the sleeping hero, who is in fact too much of a male "sleeping beauty" to have lived a hard life in the fields. Shepherds may be very poetical personages, but all the Titian and Meliboei that we have seen bore a marvellous resemblance to Smithfield drovers.

Mr. Villamil and Mr. Burgess represent Spain in this exhibition. The "Aquador's Stall," by the former, is nicely painted; and Mr. Burgess's "Nun" has the indisputable advantage of being pretty. The best picture, however, by far, that Mr. Burgess has brought from Spain, is his "Chestnut Seller," in the Portland Gallery.

Mr. Debit Francis exhibits only one work: "Autumn—Scotland—Evening." It is simply a pretty Scottish girl, with a sheaf of corn on her head, a rich Autumn sunset, and a warm yellow landscape. The whole is marked by that truthfulness of feeling and finish of execution, which distinguish all Mr. Francis's productions.

Of the portraits, the best are those by Mr. Backner, who among others, contributes a charming likeness of a lively, fair-haired, little girl.

Altogether, although marked by no sort of originality, the present exhibition of British artists is decidedly one of considerable interest.

ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION.

THE Architectural Exhibition, which hitherto has been always held in the winter, has now, in the language of the turf, become a "spring meeting." The new rooms were inaugurated by a conversation, at which Earl de Grey, the President of the Institute, and a number of distinguished architects and artists were present, and on that occasion the drawings and plans with which the walls of the various rooms are hung appeared to excite much interest. We doubt, however, whether the general public know or care (the latter involves the former) enough about architecture to visit the Exhibition in any great numbers. At the same time, it will be found highly interesting by a large special class, and the public should really be encouraged to visit it for their own instruction, or rather (if we may be permitted an architectural pun) their own edification.

The galleries contain altogether some four hundred works, including designs and plans of churches, schools, asylums, private-houses, railway-stations, and buildings of every conceivable description.

Mr. Owen Jones contributes a series of beautiful designs for the Palace of the People, which, in consequence of the supposed success of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, is to be erected at Muswell Hill.

Mr. Curry sends a magnificent plan for the offices of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, already in process of construction in Leadenhall Street. Too much praise cannot be awarded to all who endeavour to give a palatial character to our large commercial buildings, which at present, are for the most part, architectural monstrosities. It is precisely the heaviness of construction characterising all the offices, factories, and cotton-mills of Manchester, which makes that city the dullest in the universe.

The Exhibition contains numerous drawings and photographs of foreign buildings of various ages and countries, which will be found interesting by visitors of all classes; and philanthropists no less than artists will rejoice to see what care and consideration are being bestowed on the building of several recently-projected hospitals and asylums.

The house in which the Architectural Exhibition is held, and which belongs to the Architectural Union Company, is occupied by the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Architectural Association, the Architectural Photographic Association, and the Architectural Publication Society. The galleries are devoted to the General Architectural Exhibition during nine months of the year, and during the remaining three—from December to March—a special photographic exhibition is to be held.

A GIFT HOUSE.—As a mark of her satisfaction at the treatment of Prince Alfred by the Maltese, the Queen placed in commission in the Rifle Brigade at the disposal of the Governor, to be bestowed on a Maltese. Sir Gaspar de Marchant offered it to two young gentlemen successively. Both declined, because their private means would not allow them to keep pace with their brother officers more favoured by fortune and family connections!

THE MURDER CALENDAR.—The man Crellett is at present in strict confinement at West Bromwich, and two policemen are in constant attendance on him as nurses. The frightful wound in his throat remains unhealed. Although food administered through the mouth never reaches the stomach, it is found necessary to allow some to be taken in this manner to allay the sensations of thirst in the mouth, and to satisfy the cravings of the nerves of taste. Life is (or was) sustained by liquid food being injected into the stomach by a force-pump applied through the wound. On Wednesday of last week, his wife was buried, not more than forty yards from the sick chamber of her husband and murderer. His attendants by loud talking, and by other noises, tried to divert his attention, but in vain. The obsequies were attended by some young women, members, like the murdered woman, of a sick and burial club. These, as is the custom on such occasions, sang a hymn before leaving the house with the corpse. The strain caught the murderer's ears. At this time he was sitting up in bed. He threw up his hands, his face bearing an expression of intense grief, and throwing himself back again in his bed, covered his face with his hands. He seems to be under the impression that he will recover, and intimates his intention of getting his living by selling oranges.—Richard Bolton and John Danks were sentenced to death at Chester on Friday (the 1st) for the murder of Thomas Maddocks, in a poaching affray. When the Judge, upon addressing the prisoners, began the awful condemnation, Danks fell forward upon the front of the dock. The turnkeys supported him, and when he had recovered his consciousness, the Learned Judge proceeded to pass sentence in the usual terms. Danks was removed in a fainting state, but Bolton was more firm—or more hardened.—Frederick Prentice, who murdered Emma Coppins at Queensborough, by cutting her throat, was to have been hanged at Maidstone on Thursday.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, AND ART IN ROME.

THE PRINCE OF WALES continues to visit the studios of artists of various nations congregated in the Eternal city, and charms all by the aptness of his observations and the amiability of his manners. Amongst the sculptors with whose works the Prince was most gratified was Mr. B. Spence, whose studio is now enriched by a noble group not yet completed, the finding of the infant Moses by Pharaoh's daughter. The German artists, Frey and Riedel, the former as excellent in landscape as the latter is in figures, have been honoured by a visit from the Prince, and had the satisfaction of receiving his encomiums in their mother tongue. Nor have the representatives of American art been overlooked by his Royal Highness, who, in company with Mr. Gibson, our renowned fellow-countryman, visited the studio of Miss Hosmer, the Transatlantic sculptress. This talented young lady is twenty-seven years of age, and has already, under the guidance of Mr. Gibson, of whom she is a pupil, acquired a considerable amount of fame. The statue which she is at present engaged upon is one of Zenobia; and this was especially noticed by the Prince, who, with Mr. Gibson by his side, had the benefit of that gentleman's remarks on the growing talent displayed in the works of his young pupil. A correspondent, to whom we are indebted for another illustration in the present number, furnishes us with a sketch of Miss Hosmer's studio, at the time of the Prince's visit.

COUNT CAVOUR.

CAMILLE, COUNT CAVOUR, President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs in the service of the King of Sardinia, is the foremost man of the political world at this moment, and for several years has played a part which will hand his name far down into the future. He became the chief adviser of his sovereign in November, 1852, replacing M. d'Azeglio, who had retired before a parliamentary demonstration in favour of a more advanced liberalism than he could accept. His ambitious and comprehensive views rendered him a very acceptable adviser to Victor Emmanuel, and he is possessed of great tact and eloquence to enforce them. He has certainly worked hard to consolidate constitutional government in Piedmont, to maintain the independence of the state against Papal and Austrian influence, and to improve the finances of the country. The most important act of his foreign administration—especially as it enabled Sardinia to take the high though dangerous ground it at present occupies—was the accession of Sardinia, in 1855, to the treaty of offensive alliance between England and France against Russia. In this same year Count Cavour resigned the premiership, in order to facilitate an arrangement with Rome, then believed possible, respecting the relations of the monasteries to the State; but the experiment having failed, Cavour returned to office only a few days after his retirement. Associated with the Marquis of Villamarina, Count Cavour

took a conspicuous part in the Peace Conference of 1856; and has since that period worked so restlessly against the domination of Austria in Italy, that another peace congress is about to assemble to avoid a war still more terrible than the last.

This is not the place in which to express any opinion upon the Count's designs or his motives; enough that they have given him and his country an importance little anticipated. Backed by the Emperor of the French, he boldly holds the ground he ventured to take, and indeed is reported to look upon himself as the master of the situation. His conversations with the Emperor at the Tuileries certainly do not seem to abate his eagerness—rather the contrary, they say. The curiosity of the political world as to what really did pass between Count Cavour and the French Emperor is likely to be gratified, as a long memorandum on the whole state of Italy is about being issued from Turin, embodying the views both of Napoleon III. and the Piedmont Premier. This document, it appears, was solicited by Lord Malmesbury (who really wanted to be no longer *étranger aux affaires étrangères*), and will put the question for congress on a certain basis.

A despatch has been addressed by the Count to the diplomatic agents of Piedmont at foreign courts, protesting against the proposed exclusion of Piedmont from the congress. Count Cavour protests against that exclusion, which he describes as unjust, suggesting that, having no interest in the Crimean war, Piedmont nevertheless took a very active part in the military operations of the allied Powers, that it spared no sacrifices either in men or money, and that that expedition cost Piedmont from 3,000 to 4,000 men and 50,000,000 francs.

He is convinced that Piedmont having, moreover, after the eastern war, been called upon to take part in the labours of the congress opened at Paris to conclude the treaty of peace, and more recently to join the conferences which regulated the situation of the Danubian Principalities—arrangements in which it had no interest—is fully entitled to have a voice in the deliberations of the great European

Powers when its own existence is at stake.

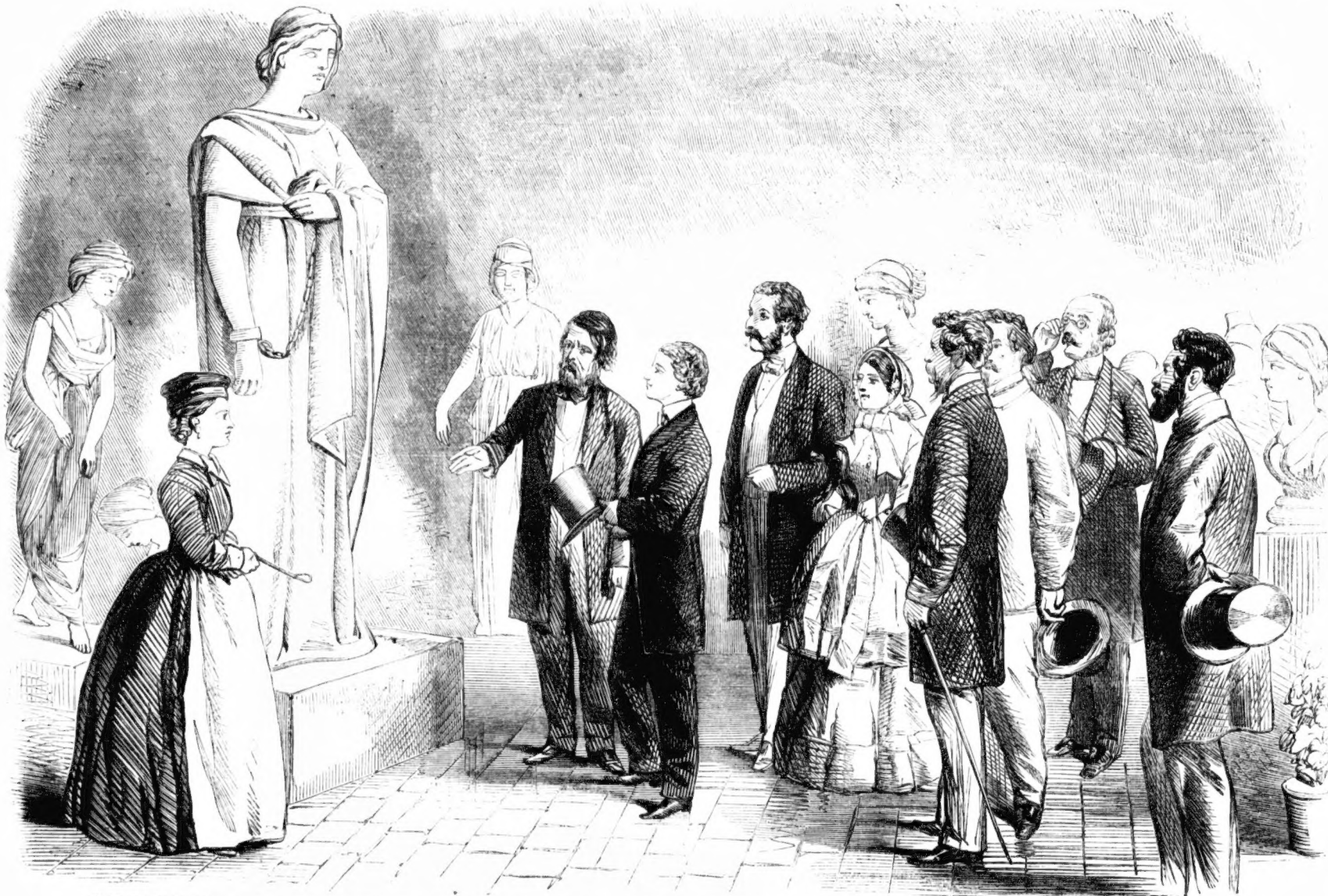
The Count preceeds to say that he cannot understand the argument that if Piedmont is admitted to the congress all the other Italian States should be admitted likewise. In addition to the above-cited considerations which entitle it to a distinct privilege from its neighbours, Piedmont appeals to the peculiar circumstances which have preceded the proposal of a congress. Russia did not spontaneously propose to the five great European Powers a consideration of the general state of affairs of the Italian Peninsula with a view to improve the condition of the inhabitants. The point of the question is to be found in the complaints of Piedmont respecting the position Austria has assumed towards it, and the counter-complaints Austria has brought forward in reply.

The congress, therefore, has to decide between Austria and Piedmont; and is Austria to be allowed a voice in the congress, while Piedmont is to be excluded? The Government of King Victor Emmanuel, says he, has always shown great solicitude for the sufferings of Italians, not subjects of Piedmont; the other Italian governments, on the contrary, all allies of Austria, act in concert with her, pay no heed to these sufferings, and have constantly opposed all reforms; their representatives would consequently attend the congress simply to support Austria, and thwart the views of Europe. It would be far different if the people subjected to the domination of that Government were allowed to send delegates to the congress to explain the grievances which weigh upon them, and under which they chafe.

Count Cavour concludes this paper by recapitulating the dangers that will arise from the maintenance of the *statu quo* in Italy; declaring, that if the great European Powers let slip the opportunity for improving the condition of that country, and pacifying it, the responsibility of ulterior events will fall upon them entirely, Piedmont declining the slightest part in it. This sounds rather like a threat; indeed, Count Cavour has dealt not a little in threats lately—we hope, to no evil result.



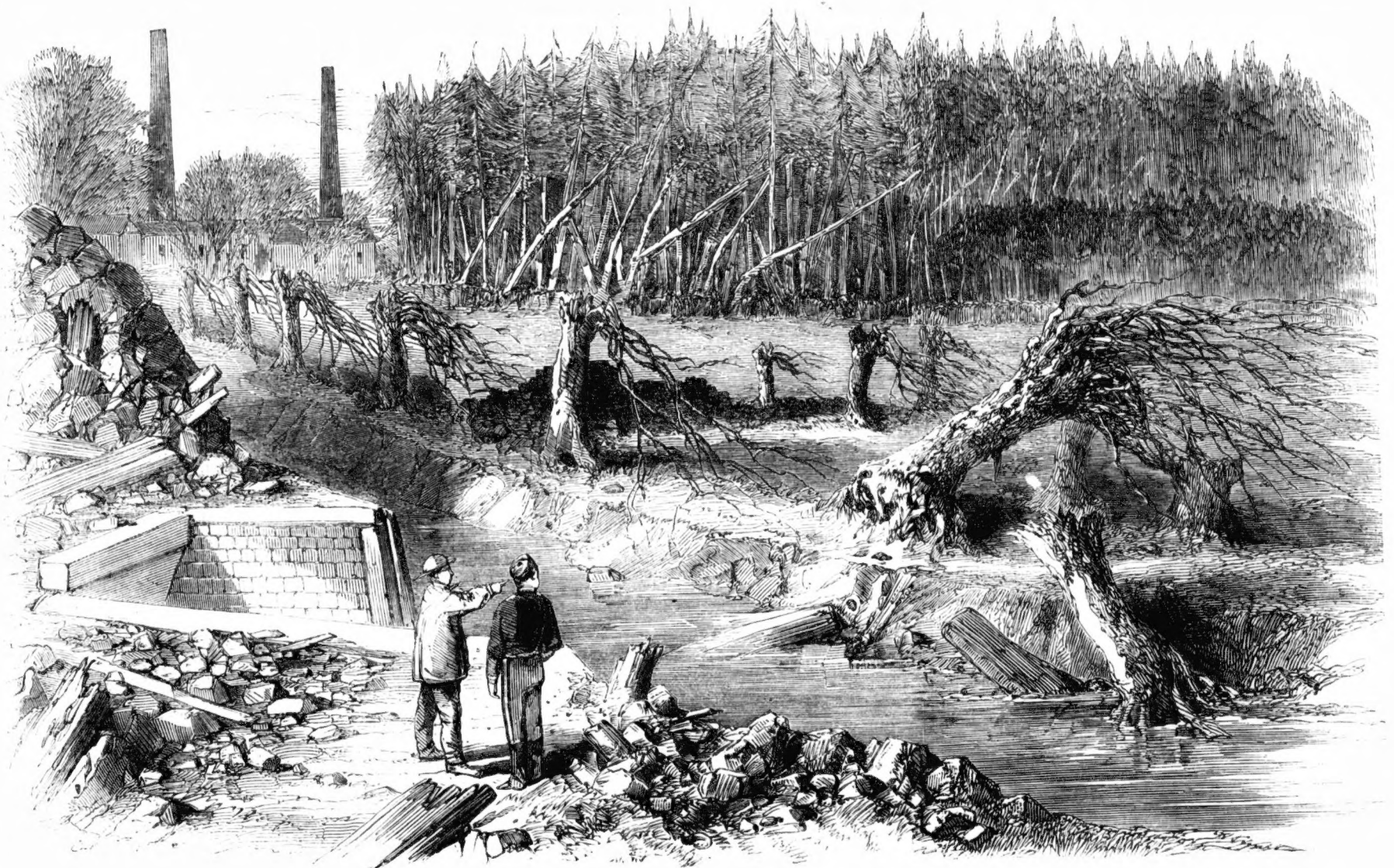
COUNT CAVOUR, PRESIDENT MINISTER OF SARDINIA.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYER AND PIBSON, [PARIS].)



THE PRINCE OF WALES, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. GIBSON, R.A., VISITING THE STUDIO OF MISS HOSMER, AT ROME.—(FROM A SKETCH BY MISS FRISCHILLA PRINCESS.)



EXPLOSION OF THE HOUNSLOW POWDER-MILLS: RUINS OF THE CORNING-HOUSE.



EFFECTS OF THE EXPLOSION OF THE PRESS-HOUSE.

THE EXPLOSION AT THE HOUNSLOW POWDER MILLS.

THE scene of the late explosion at Hounslow is down at the water's side, but long before it is reached, evidences of its terrible violence become visible on all sides. Doors and windows are shattered to pieces, out-houses more or less completely unroofed, while charred timbers, bricks, branches of trees, and pieces of machinery, litter the ground in all directions. A large turret clock over one of the warehouses stopped at the instant of the explosion, and now records the fatal minute when the disaster took place, at twenty-one minutes past ten. From this part of the works down to the water the ground is so encumbered with ruins that it is with difficulty one can walk over them to the site where the press-house stood, and where the accident is now known to have originated. The spot is merely a blackened hole in the ground. The massive banks of earth around it are almost completely swept away. Only the stumps of large trees, burnt almost to charcoal, mark where the thick plantation stood. For the space of 100 or 150 yards around are strewn masses of brickwork, pieces of machinery weighing upwards of a ton, with earth, wooden beams, and boughs of trees so charred and broken up and mingled together, that it is almost difficult to say of what the ruin is composed. A little branch of the river Colne, about thirty feet wide, flowed close by one end of the building, and along this, in punts, the barrels of gunpowder used to be brought to the press-house, and when compressed conveyed in the same way to be "corned" or grained. The force of the explosion, however, was so immense that one of the banks round the house was swept into the stream, so as to completely fill up its bed, while the large punt that floated on it was blown into a plantation at the other side, and lies overturned, almost buried under a heap of rubbish. Everything in or near the house that was strong enough to offer resistance to the shock is shattered to fragments, and scattered far and wide; the only things that remain comparatively as they were before the accident are the four short powerful wrought iron columns which formed the frame of the hydraulic press, and which, though twisted, are still standing. The report of the explosion was heard at Cholesbury, on the Chiltern Hills: a distance of twenty-four miles.

The work performed in the press-house was not considered a very hazardous process of the manufacture, as the operation only consisted of pressing damp cakes of the powder under a hydraulic machine until every grain had been compressed to the requisite density. Three men were at work in this house on the day of the disaster. The quantity of powder in the building is supposed to have been about fifteen or sixteen barrels. Another man who also worked in this house was in the act of going towards it, when he was hurled to the ground and saw the fragments of the building in a mass of dazzling white flame scattered high in the air. Hardly was the tremendous concussion over, and while the ruins of the building were falling far and near in all directions, the corner-house, about 120 yards distant from the press-house, blew up in a similar way. This literally is all that is known. The three men in each house were of course almost instantaneously killed, and a seventh workman who was between the two buildings was blown far across the stream, and into a plantation, where he was afterwards found dead and fearfully charred. Two or three of the men were literally almost blown to atoms; but the rest were not much mutilated, though burnt as if they had been in a furnace.

As soon as the disaster was known, a detachment of soldiers was sent from the cavalry barracks with litters. They were employed to collect the remains of the dead men.

To those unacquainted with the intense heat with which gunpowder explodes it is almost marvellous to see the manner in which an explosion so instantaneous has consumed the most solid objects. The trunks of large green trees are burnt as if they had been subjected to a fierce fire for several hours. This is particularly the case round where the corner-house stood, though there, only some ten or twelve barrels exploded. About the press-house, where the largest quantity blew up, not a vestige of anything that grew there before now remains.

At the corn-house, distant about 120 yards from the press-house, some of the iron shafts and ponderous wheels, wrenched away and crumpled up like tin-work, gave awful evidence of the explosion, while the stumps of trees, which were forty and fifty yards away, and which are riven into burnt splinters, show how far the force and shock extended. Fortunately only a few minutes before the accident the men whose duty it is from time to time to remove the barrels in the punts, had called at the corner-house and taken away some twelve barrels. Had this quantity been in the house in addition to what exploded, it is impossible to say what might not have been the consequences, as it would then most probably have spread from building to building till nearly the whole works were in ruins. The great violence of the explosion at the corner-house seems to have crossed the little stream we have mentioned, and gone through a plantation up a steep hill towards a large dusting-house, about 150 or 160 yards off, where there was a great deal of the best powder, and where people were at work. This building, like the others, is surrounded by a plantation and a high powerful screen of timber. The latter was shattered almost to atoms, and part of it fell on the roof of the dusting-house, but it undoubtedly prevented any further disaster. Had the screen not been there, or had there been more powder in the corner-house, this dusting-house, and perhaps many others, would have gone up also like so many mines. From this point up to the engine and boiler-house all the doors and windows are blown inwards, and shattered. Beyond a distance of about 400 yards, the doors and windows are shattered outwards. This apparently singular circumstance is caused by the immense displacement of air consequent upon the explosion, and the rush to fill up the partial vacuum, and which, of course, blew out the doors and windows of the buildings, otherwise beyond the immediate influence of the explosion. None of the very tall chimney-shafts were affected by the concussion, which, when their height and position are considered, seems almost unaccountable.

The inquest on the bodies of those whose lives were sacrificed, was formally opened on Saturday. There was no one to give any reliable account of the accident, but the coroner and the jury deem it their duty to inquire into the cause of such accidents generally, and therefore adjourned the inquest to obtain the assistance of Professor Faraday, and other scientific gentlemen. On Tuesday, when the inquiry was resumed, Dr. Faraday was unable to attend. However, Dr. Thompson was present and listened attentively to the evidence. It threw no light on the cause of the accident. The evidence of a pressman employed in the corner-house went to show that there were no adequate means of regulating the pressure used in drying the powder. He was never told that going beyond a certain pressure was dangerous, but his own impression was, that it was not so safe to press such a large amount of powder as this press contained. Another workman said he did not think it more dangerous to work with a large press than a small one; and it was furthermore shown that no degree of pressure would cause gunpowder to explode. One thing seems to have been shown, from the condition of the ruined machinery, that the powder exploded while in the press, and not while it was being withdrawn, or put in. The inquest was adjourned for a fortnight, for the preparation of the scientific evidence.

We may add here that an explosion took place at the Faversham Powder Mills on Saturday morning. Fortunately, owing to the absence of a large number of the workmen, no one was killed, and only a few injured.

WORTHY OF NOTICE.—The capacity of the lungs bears a uniform relation to the height of the individual. We have not unfrequently met with nervous young men, who have been alarmed, on trying their capacity in the spirometer, by the discovery that their respiratory organs were weaker than those of some companion, who, though the taller man of the two, was regarded as the more "shaky" subject. Dr. Hutchinson's experiments, made upon 1,920 males, prove beyond a question the relation which capacity bears to height. The same authority asserts it to increase eight cubic inches for every inch above five feet. From fifteen to thirty-five the vital capacity increases with the bodily development, and diminishes from thirty-five to sixty-five, at the rate of about one cubic inch per annum.—LITERARY GAZETTE.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1859.

THE CONGRESS.

FIRST catch your Congress! This is the irreverent exclamation which comes to the mouth of a reader of the newspapers in the present ugly crisis. For while the "Congress" only exists in intention, and with a dependence on conditions, the "preparations" are instant, practical, and unceasing. All the talk points to peace, but all the action points to war.

People would do well to meditate on the philosophy of Congresses just now. A Congress meets to settle disputed points between nations by diplomacy. But then the positions of the nations towards each other must necessarily regulate the diplomacy. If they are standing opposite each other, armed, angry, and confident, that is not a favourable condition for the business. Accordingly the great international adjustments—the Peace of Utrecht, treaties of Paris—have been made *after* wars. War settles the relations of peoples to each other by indisputable arrangements—something has been *done* that can be negotiated upon. And so we saw during the Russian war that Lord John Russell's Vienna mission failed, because *events* had not gone far enough to teach the Powers their real relative strength towards each other.

But, supposing a Congress to meet now, what are the real positions of the parties? Diplomats cannot argue on the basis, "that whereas France has found that a war is not likely to be so popular as was once thought, therefore," &c. Yet this is what ought to be the preamble, if Louis Napoleon's policy has not been grievously misrepresented. He has shown that he would like war—he goes on preparing for it; what, then, can be the use of a Congress? While the Italians want to fight, while France is anxious, and Austria ready for it, what charm in the name of "Congress" can hush the passions and make supreme the moderation and reason of the various parties? Neither of them yet knows his comparative strength, be it noted; but a Congress can only deal with facts already made patent.

These considerations induce us to doubt whether peace is so probable a solution of the European difficulty as some fancy. If every mortal concerned was perfectly reasonable and honest, something might be hoped; but who pretends that selfish ambition has had nothing to do with the dispute so far? Has Cavour no motive for aggrandising Sardinia? Has Napoleon nothing to gain by using her? Have the revolutionists nothing to hope by keeping up an excitement which supplies them with pretexts? Why, the very essence of the Italian difficulty is in the position in which Italy stands with regard to foreign countries like France. We would let her put herself to rights in her own way, or leave it alone, but for the fact that she cannot defend herself. Her very weakness it is, which makes her troubles formidable to us all, by enabling other nations to invade her when they please, and so making her very attempts at a cure the curses of her condition. The heart of her evil is the Pope's power; but when once the Romans try and deal with that, France steps in and prevents them by force. Possibly France might get an ascendancy over all Italy for a time—but what then? This would not be reform, but simple conquest.

In corroboration of our doubts whether a Congress is probable, we may point to the various "conditions" with which its meeting is evidently hampered. France, for instance, wants Sardinia to be "in," though Sardinia is a small Power, and not entitled to represent the whole of Italy by any means. Austria, again, wants Sardinia to disarm, which so long as Austria herself is on her frontiers in such strength, is plainly not to be granted. It can only be by a kind of miracle, if—with such causes of complaint, and such a readiness for hostility on all sides—peace continues undisturbed up to the time talked of for the Congress's assembling. There is all the revolutionary danger—never quite absent in Italy—and now at its height; there is the risk between the Austrian and Sardinian out-lying troops, and both are heightened by the approaching death of the King of Naples. Any of these events would give Napoleon his pretext, and throw Austria—with all Germany at her back—upon the defence of her national independence. Now, if we consider that one great potentate is suspected of wishing for such a crisis as this, what right have we to hope anything half so reasonable as the tranquil discussion of long-standing difficulties embittered by national jealousies? If a Congress does come, and does settle all this, without bloodshed, it will say more for the civilisation of Europe than all the orators on that fertile subject. But we are afraid that we must postpone all confidence of a pacific termination till we have seen absolute disarmament generally commenced.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN held a levee in St. James's Palace, on Wednesday.

THE QUEEN AND THE PRINCE CONSORT visited the British Museum Library on Saturday, just as it was about to close.

THE PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM has associated herself with other ladies of the highest rank at Berlin, to establish an asylum for governesses who may be temporarily unemployed.

THE PRINCE CONSORT has kindly consented to patronise the performance of Haydn's cantata, "The Seasons," at Exeter Hall, on the 10th of May next, for the benefit of the London Society for the Protection of Young Females.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON preached on Sunday evening to a large congregation of omnibus-drivers and conductors. The gathering was made up, Messrs. Wilson's Yard, at Islington.

LORD STANLEY has granted a pension of £150 a year each to the step-children of the late General Jacob. The pension commences from the date of General Jacob's death.

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE had a law offering a bounty for the destruction of crows, but it has had to be repealed in consequence of the practice of procuring crows' eggs and hatching them under hens, and bringing forward the brood for the bounty.

THE GOVERNMENT have given their consent to the erection of two new bishoprics, namely, the Bishopric of Brisbane (Moreton Bay), and the Bishopric of Goulbourn (New South Wales). Towards each of these new sees the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts has contributed £1,000.

HOLKAR is said to have consulted his astrologer as to whether he should join the Indian rebels, and received the following reply:—"If all the English persons save one are slain, that one will remain to fight and reconquer."

A NEW ILLUSTRATED EDITION OF THE AMERICAN NOVELIST, COOPER, has been recently commenced in New York; it is said to surpass anything of the kind hitherto published there.

AN ENGLISH LIFEBOAT is to be placed on the Lake of Geneva.

DURING THE REVIEW AT CHATHAM, last week, the Duke of Cambridge only censured a colonel for the inefficiency of his regiment and ignorance of his duty.

A MERCHANT OF GLASGOW, returning home from his work, found his wife drunk, and his little son, nearly three years old, drowned in a tub behind the door.

THE 4TH ROYAL LANCASHIRE MILITIA has been disembodied.

A SUBSCRIPTION is on foot for raising a testimonial to the late Mr. William Weir, long and honourably connected with newspaper literature and the "Daily News."

ABD-EL-KADER is said to have written a memoir of his life; it is being revised for publication.

THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL has resolved to take a direct interest in the Metropolitan Railway to the extent of 20,000 shares, amounting to £200,000.

THE PEOPLE OF VALETTA have been talking of a job perpetrated by Bishop Casolani and others "on the Admiralty," in obtaining £50,000 for the new stores constructed by the speculative prelate under Cornish heights. The cost of these stores, we are told, did not exceed £12,000, including the purchase of the land, or rather rock.

UPWARDS OF THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND POUNDS have already been paid in cash for the Desjardins Canal accident of the Great Western of England Railway, and £10,000 more will be paid when the bonds given fall due at various periods up to 1863. Thus the accident will cost £16,000.

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERY has just had a noble bequest made to it. The exquisite Gainsborough, the fine whole-length of Mrs. Graham (Lord Lynedoch's wife), bought by Mr. Graham, of Redgorton, for £2,000, was bequeathed by him to the Scottish Gallery.

THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF RAIN from the METROPOLIS is becoming a subject of very serious uneasiness. Last year the autumn supply was so short as to compel the inhabitants of all the valleys of the Thames to open their wells and deepen them, and it seems as if matters were about to become worse. The arrears in the fall of rain in the neighbourhood of London may be set down at 13½ inches.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE is being regularly drilled at the Wellington barracks by experienced sergeants now serving in the police-force. "This," says the "United Service Gazette," "is a very proper proceeding. It gives additional security to London, and may ultimately enable the inhabitants to dispense with the presence of guardsmen, who seem not to know how to conduct themselves."

THE MECHANICAL RESOURCES OF THE MIST are found quite inadequate to supply the demand for money made upon that establishment; and an addition to the motive power employed there is being made.

FOUR GOLD-DIGGERS have lately navigated the Fitzroy River (Australia) in a canoe, for a distance of 250 miles, "prospecting" for a new gold field. They describe the country as most delightful and fertile, and the probability is that a population will be attracted to the banks of that river, and make it the seat of a new agricultural district.

A NEW SECT, CALLED TRANSMIGRATIONISTS, have of late become very numerous in France and Germany. Their character is reputed to be "highly moral, and their creed Christian; only they include all animals in their idea of universal morality. They profess to believe that being changed after death into some animal will be their purgatory."

PRINCE GHOLAM MAHOMED, son of the Sultan Tippoos Shahib, has arrived in London, from Calcutta, with the view of renewing his protestations of loyalty after the proclamation of her Majesty to the native princes of India.

A LARGE BASKET, declared as containing bottles of eau de la Salette, was lately addressed Aux Carmes Friars, at Ypres. The Customs' officers opened the package in order to verify its contents, and found that the pretended eau de la Salette was excellent brandy. The whole was seized as contraband.

A FINE BELL, taken by the British troops from the great temple at Canton, has been placed in the centre transept of the Crystal Palace.

MR. GLADSTONE entertained Baron Puerio at dinner, on Monday evening. The Duke of Newcastle, the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Aberdeen, the Earl and Countess Stanhope, Sir James Graham and Miss Graham, were among the guests invited to meet the Baron.

THE FRENCH MERCANTILE NAVY CONSISTED, on the 1st of January last, of 14,900 sailing vessels, of which 11,000 were engaged in distant voyages, and the remainder were in the Mediterranean. It comprised, moreover, 330 steam-vessels, of which 182 were engaged in distant voyages, and 148 in the Mediterranean.

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE EIGHT-OARED RACE is now fixed for Friday, the 15th instant.

THE STATEMENT that the Viceroy of Egypt had peremptorily interdicted M. de Lesseps from proceeding with his plan for piercing the Isthmus of Suez is contradicted. We are getting tired of repeating and contradicting statements on this subject.

THE COTTON SUPPLY FROM AMERICA is likely to be steady and continuous for some time to come. Of 146,359 bales recently shipped at New Orleans, Liverpool was to take 92,871 bales; Havre, 13,422; Russia, 15,308; other ports, 12,043; domestic (American) ports, 12,355.

A MRS. WATSON, of LEEDS, was killed last week by swallowing, while asleep, a set of four false teeth.

THE REV. WILLIAM WATSON, pastor of a Methodist church in Iowa, was lately arrested while preaching a funeral sermon. The reverend gentleman's peccadillo was forging bank bills, in concert with a gang of counterfeiters. He said he had joined them to get money to do good with!

WHEN THE EMPEROR visited Count Walewski, last summer, at his villa of Etioles, he saluted his eldest boy with the title of Count d'Etioles. His Majesty did not know that it was Rachel's son whom he addressed, but the boy keeps the title, and still forms one of the family circle, as all Paris knows.

A DESK belonging to the secretary of the Bank of England having been broken open, the matter so weighed upon the mind of Bancroft, a trusty porter in the establishment, that he committed suicide.

THE COLONEL OF A HUNGARIAN REGIMENT has, it is said, been tried by court-martial, and sentenced to be shot at Verona, for having attempted to persuade his regiment not to fight against the Italians.

AN ACTION to maintain possession of a public footpath on the banks of the Orwell has been successfully prosecuted at the Bury St. Edmunds Assizes, against Captain Sir George Broke, who desired to close the path.

MR. REED, late Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to China, has arrived in Paris.

THE NUMBER OF LETTERS WRITTEN IN FRANCE does not, it is calculated, exceed 9½ per annum, on an average, for each inhabitant. In England it is 21; in Scotland, 16; and in Ireland, 7. As to journals, the proportion of the number of copies to the population is in England 249 per cent., whilst in France it is 255.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

In your paper of the 26th of March, I foretold that the majority of the Government would be 10 or 50; the actual majority was 10, and that it was a settled matter that Lord Derby would be Premier. The numbers which voted were—For the Government, 330. Add to these numbers four tellers and the majority, and you will see that there were 334 members present. This has been exceeded only once in the whole course of our parliamentary history. In 1841, when Sir Robert Peel moved a vote of want of confidence in the Whig Government, and beat the Government by 10, the numbers present were 628. Such was the energy of Lord Taylor "whipped" up the Conservatives last week, there were only seven absent—viz., Sir W. Heathcote (Oxford), ill; Colonel Herbert (Ludlow), in India; Sir H. Meux (Bristol), ill; Mr. Mullings (Gloucester), ill; Mr. Wigram (Cambridge), ill; Major Worley (Hendon), abroad; and the Right Hon. J. Wyndham (Sligo), ill. The Liberal "whips" were less successful; only seventeen of their friends were away—Mr. Atherton (Barnes), on circuit (Mr. A. came up on Tuesday to divide, but on the belief that the division would not come off until Friday); Mr. Brown (St. Leger), ill; Lord F. Conyngham (London), ill; Lord Gifford (Totnes), abroad; Mr. Heathcote (Fiverton), ill; Lord E. Howard (Arundel), in town, but did not vote; Mr. J. M. St. John (Wexford), ill; Mr. Mitchell (Gloucester), ill; Mr. Mostyn (Flintshire), ill; Sir T. O'Brien (Cashel), ill; Mr. Power (Waterford), ill; Mr. Ricardo (Stoke Newington), ill; Sir W. Russell (Dover), in India; Mr. D. Seymour (Barnes), ill; General Wyndham (E. Norfolk), in India; and Mr. Wyndham (St. Wilts). There were thirty-two of the Opposition voted with the Government, eleven of whom were Irish; and of the Conservatives who voted with the Opposition—at least so "Times," but Mr. Tomline of Shrewsbury is hardly a Conservative, and Mr. Gray of Bolton is a very mild one. Lord Hotham is the only real Conservative on the Opposition list.

For the Government party was decided or wished to decide, for ministerialists were up to the last betting heavily upon the Government. I rather fancy that they were deceived; they knew that they had nearly 300 members in town, and as it is a very uncommon number so high a number as 600 to divide, they thought they were safe, and if I had known that they could poll 291, I confess that I should have considered the Opposition game lost.

I generally considered that the dissolution is a mistake; no man in his senses can imagine that the result will be an increase of strength for the Government. Every general election now increases the democratic element in the House; and there is certainly nothing in the circumstances of this to make it an exception to the rule. Parliament will be prorogued about Thursday, the 21st of April, and dissolved immediately. It will take about five weeks to get the elections over; so we may expect the new Parliament to assemble at the beginning of May. Members and their friends are leaving London in shoals, and in a week or ten days Pall Mall and St. James's will be deserted. The Rev. Mr. Bellows, whose remarkable powers of oratory have attracted to him so much attention, is about to give a reading from the Book of Goldsmith, at St. Martin's Hall, on the 13th instant. The object of the reading will be devoted to a charitable purpose, to procure a library, by purchase, into the St. Ann's Society, of an orphan has been left destitute under specially afflictive circumstances. He is of himself amply sufficient to command public sympathy; but, as it will be by Mr. Bellows, there can be no doubt as to the result. Since the publication of "Adam Bede," I have had constant inquiries from correspondents, giving me the name of the author. This I have two letters, each authenticated by the writer's name and address, and both from different parts of the country, concurring in naming as the author a clergyman of the name of Higgins, now said to be resident at Lupton. By one of my correspondents the scene of the "Clerical Life" papers is laid in Aylesbury. I do not vouch for these rumours, nor do I myself believe them, holding as I do to the theory that both books are written by a woman.

THE LOUNGER AT THE STUDIOS.

Cito pede—I beg your pardon! I would simply say that the twelvemonth has rolled away, and that again the time has arrived when works of art intended to be shown at the forthcoming Academy Exhibition are to be submitted for the decision of the Forty. Last Tuesday was "sending-in day," and for the three previous days the various artists' quarters of the metropolis reminded one of a German provincial town at New-year—all open house and constant and promiscuous visiting. Art, like Fashion, has migrated of late years: she used to dwell (in Becky Sharp's time) in villanous little streets off Soho Square, Greek Street and Frith Street, handy for the purchasers of ingeniously-fabricated copies, the fabricants of which then dwelt in Wardour Street; Berners and Newman Streets once claimed her for their own, and even now the drawing-board sellers and colour-makers inhabit Rathbone Place. In Gower Street and Charlotte Street still are to be seen extended windows verging from the first to the second floors and suggestive of "north-lights" applied to art purposes; but most of the *di majores*, and more especially the younger ones, have hied them away to remote districts, to stately Kensington and stuccoed Bayswater, where they live in the neatest little villas with painting-rooms attached, where they have purer air and better light, and greater freedom from boring visitors—cab-hire to these outlying regions being, in Transatlantic phrase, "a caution."

But on the few days immediately prior to the period when the result of the years' labour is to be transmitted to the Academy, there is, as I have said, open house; and all who care for art and its professors make pilgrimage to the little studio-shrines. The ladies, bless them! without the very smallest notion of what is really good or bad, swarm in the little rooms, and one can only catch glimpses of honest Dick Tinto's bushy beard or the critic Tom Verjuice's pleasant expression, looming above clouds of crinoline. Dowager chariots, natty broughams, reckless Hansons' cut up the newly-made compound of flint and gravel which does duty for a road. The Campden Hill neighbourhood begins to imagine that the fugitive Colonel has returned, and that "Mrs. Petrie Waugh's *matinées musicales*," erst the theme of the disquisitions Jenkins, are once more revived, and infantile Titians and Raphaels gaze with wonder on the powdered-headed Jeaneases, whose expressive countenances are on a level with the nursery windows of the little houses.

After a two years' absence, Mr. Millais returns full of force and vigour. Not with the "Return of the Crusader," though, which half-finished canvas has, it is said, been consigned to an indefinite rest, but with two new large and most elaborate pictures. I do not know the names he purposes to give them, nor do I know if my conception is the right one, but there seems to me to be an affinity and a connection between them. One represents an orchard in full bloom, in the warm and cheerful spring. The trees, like Tennyson's oak, are "hidden to the knees in fern," and in their shade—some sitting, some reclining—is a group of girls, also in the spring-tide of their existence, some drinking syllabubs, others talking and laughing, some with primroses and other wild flowers twined in their hair, one stretched "in sweet idleness supine," lying in the height of indolence, and lazily drawing a blade of grass through her lips. The whole picture breathes of health, air, sunshine, happiness, and youth. The other picture shows us a solemn convent garden, staid and sombre to a degree, seen in the dull, heavy, waning sunlight of an autumn evening. A few scattered, thick, purple clouds fleck the leaden sky, against which two or three prim poplars stand out in sombre relief. There are two figures in this picture, both nuns: one is engaged in digging a grave, the other sits on a bank near her, looking out from the canvas at the spectator. The expression of this woman's face is perfectly marvellous—a hopeless, hapless resignation, a fixed stern determination, a submission to this past, a defiance to ills to come—throughout all a worn, wan, strangely touching melancholy; all these expressions are to be found in

this one wonderful face! The artistic manipulation of both pictures is excellent, the orchard blossom, fern, and spring flowers in the first, and the close-shaven turf, upturned earth, and autumnal sky in the other, are all most carefully and admirably rendered. A prefatory notice has no right to be critical; and Mr. Millais may be—doubtless—prepared for rough handling in certain quarters, but he may be certain that he has painted a picture which will appeal to the best feelings of thousands, and that he has added fresh honour to his already honoured name.

Mr. Frith this year is the Achilles of art, though, heaven knows! unlike Thetis' son, he has no cause for complaint. If the "Derby Day" was his Briseis, the public were most complimentary to her; and though she was taken away from him, he received a good round sum in exchange. Nevertheless, the great warrior, if he do not sulk in his tent (and he is far too sensible and too genial a gentleman to do anything of the kind), is seen among his brethren but by one specimen, and that a portrait. Not, however, an ordinary portrait—no smug provincial mayor to be hung up in the corporation hall—no smooth-faced clergyman presented to his wife by the congregational young ladies who envy her position—no knock-kneed, Jack-booted, silly life-guardsmen; but an admirable likeness of the greatest genius of the day, by one of the first of modern painters. Mr. Frith requires no assistance to transmit his name to posterity; his own clear head and dexterous hand have long since settled that, but it will derive fresh lustre when coupled with that of Mr. Charles Dickens. The likeness is excellent, Mr. Frith having caught one of his sitters' happiest expressions, and having evidently worked *con amore* at his subject. So far, Mr. Frith, you are absolved; but the public, which watches you very carefully, will require next spring to see something on a much larger scale, as the result of your twelve-months' labours.

Mr. Augustus Egg has an excellent picture this year, the subject of which is "Cromwell before the Battle of Naseby." Through the looped-up side of his tent the Puritan leader is seen kneeling, engaged in steadfast prayer, his blunt-featured rugged face upturned, and his large coarse hands clasped in earnestness. Before him an open Bible rests upon his sword. A strong lamplight prevails in the tent, which contrasts admirably with the soft and silvery rays of a full moon which light up the surrounding plain and show the other tents where lie Cromwell's host in dark relief. There is an air of repose and of solemn stillness throughout the picture, leading one to infer that the General's example is being universally followed by his strict adherents. The painting of the picture throughout is first-rate, but one may specially notice the perfect representation of the moonlight, a most important accessory and one which figure-painters generally either slur or fail in.

I very much doubt whether the success which Mr. O'Neill obtained last year for "Eastward, Ho!" will not be exceeded by that which will result from the exhibition of the companion picture, "The Return." The conception is equally good, the sentiment equally healthy and touching (neither could be better), but the execution is decidedly more powerful and free. Here is the old ship back at last! back, lying off Gravesend, and down her side, instead of tearful women and children, come the returned soldiers—some wounded, some triumphant, some anxious, some despairing. See how tenderly the crippled officer, with his swathed and bandaged legs, with his large, yellow beard and moustache, and with the two medals swinging from his emaciated chest, is being handed into the shore-boat by the sturdy sailors! See the young lad, half swinging by a rope, who triumphantly holds out his Victoria Cross to his father, the old Chelsea pensioner, who dismissed him with his blessing in the former picture, and who now waves him a salute with feeble joy! See this red-bearded Scot, bending forward with hurried eagerness, and looking into the girl's eyes almost with ferocity, to read whether she still loves him, or whether aught has happened at home! An elderly man, with grizzled hair and beard, round whose neck a young girl in deep mourning has an enfolding arm, has an open letter in his hand from which he turns with puckered lips and watery eyes; it does not need much cunning to read that history! The man's wife, the girl's mother, has died during his absence; this is her last letter, traced with trembling hand, and this is his welcome home! His grief is probably not more poignant than that of the poor girl in the straw-bonnet with the faded green riband, in the left-hand corner of the picture, who is giving unrestrained way to her sorrow, and seems but little comforted by the well-meant consolation of the rough sailor, who is patting her shoulder, and bidding her "cheer up!" These are a few episodes in this glorious picture—a picture which really can best be described in the words used by tap-room orators, as doing "equal credit to Mr. O'Neill's head and heart;" most sweetly conceived and most admirably executed.

A thousand congratulations to Mr. Solomon, who is once more clothed and in his right mind. Two years ago, it will be remembered, Mr. Solomon painted a beautiful and truthful picture, called "Waiting for the Verdict," a picture evidencing not merely artistic talent, but a higher order of feeling and taste. Last year, with an eccentricity peculiar to his profession, he produced a picture utterly deficient in all the above-named qualifications, which was immediately purchased, and found favour with the bulk of the public. This was enough to ruin the artist; but, fortunately, his innate good taste has triumphed, and his work of this year, "The Acquittal,"—a companion to the "Waiting for the Verdict"—is undoubtedly his master-piece. The scene is the same as in the former picture—the outer-room in the assize-court. In the centre of a group of figures is the newly-acquitted man, clasping his wife to his heart with one arm, while he stretches the other to his youngest child, who is being held out for his career. Behind him stands his old father, with streaming eyes, clasping the hand of the barrister who has brought his son safely through the trial; the elder boy is in the left-hand corner, being dressed by the wife's young sister; and the back-ground shows on one side two barristers chatting—on the other, a group of country people threatening a witness for the prosecution. The entire picture is capably painted—better than its fellow, more airy, and in better colour; and the treatment of the heads of the two principal figures is as near perfection as possible.

Mr. Philip has only one picture, a quarrel between two Spanish lovers in a grove near Seville. It is praise enough to say that it equals the best of the same painter's former specimens.

Mr. Sidney Cooper has three pictures, two of large size. The subjects are "A Sunny Afternoon in Autumn," "Dairy Farm in the Marshes," and "An Effect at Sunset." Mr. Cooper's cattle are as life-like as ever, and he has made a vast improvement in his landscape painting, now requiring no assistance from Mr. Lee or any one else.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

Of the nine articles in the new BLACKWOOD three are entirely political, one political-religious, three continuations, one critical, and but one entirely original. It is but fair to state that the last, "A Winter Journey," descriptive of the mishaps encountered by a family in travelling between London and Leith, is the worst of all, uninteresting in its matter and puerile in its style. The "Cruise in Japanese Waters," which is generally attributed to Captain Sherard Osborn of the *Porpoise*, is continued with the same spirit and graphic power which have characterised it from the commencement. The second part of the "Turks in Kalafat" is smart and amusing, and the review of "Adam Bede," of course highly laudatory, is cleverly done. The political articles are, "A Dissolving View of Money and the Franchise," "The Cry for Reform," and "The New Reform Bill," none of which, I am proud to say, have I read.

It needs no printed announcement to tell that the new serial just commenced in FRASER, and called "Sword and Gown," is by the author of "Guy Livingstone," that is at once visible in the description of the few characters already given, and in the style of the writing, which, leaving the main track of the story, diverges into many pleasant little wayside paths of moralising and banter. The new tale opens well, and if Mr. Lawrence but equal his first effort he may at once take very

high rank among our novelists. Fraser is gradually obtaining a speciality for excellent essays, and those in this number, "Concerning two Blisters of Humanity," and "Professional Sectarians," are fully up to the mark. The amusing "Vagabond," which furnishes his brethren with his "hints," this month touches on Conemara, and tells, *par parenthèse*, a capital Irish story. There is also an *in memoriam* tribute to the late Mr. Broderip, who it appears was a frequent contributor to this magazine.

TITAN is pleasant and varied. The opening article, a review of the biography of the Countess von Adelsfeldt, is especially interesting from her romantic history, and her extraordinary relations with Zimmerman the poet. Both are still remembered at Düsseldorf where they sojourned for some time, and I myself have seen their house in the little village of Berendorf. The serial tale "Getting On," which has hitherto been so good, falls off sadly this month. There is the description of a supper at Oxford, which has been done a hundred times, and better done. The sooner the author returns to his former style the better he will be appreciated. The verses "The Sunset of Life" are very pretty; the rhymes "Drawing-room Troubles" vulgar and nonsensical.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN'S JOURNAL has its average number of excellent utilitarian articles, some pretty poetry, and the commencement of a new story, "Success and Failure," which does not promise much.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRESS is very much improved by its change from a weekly to a monthly issue. It is excellently printed, and contains much good matter, exhibiting throughout the strongest Tory bias, which is occasionally expressed in perhaps not the choicest language. If one might venture a suggestion, the omission in future numbers of the "Suppers of the Tories," an attempt to revive the "Noctes," would perhaps be beneficial; for though written with great point and smartness, this article contains virulent personality and abuse, which the author is certain to repent of later in life. By the way, we are here initiated into some curious mysteries. The scene is laid in the editor's sanctum, the editor and his friend are drinking claret, the time is six p.m. After a conversation which could not possibly last more than five minutes, the editor orders oysters and stout, and the "Supper of the Tories" commences.

DISTURBANCES have broken out in Jamaica, in consequence of the heavy turnpike tolls. Troops had to be called out.

GENERAL LAFAYETTE, who is to be the "Journal de Nice," has applied for a commission in the Piedmontese army.

FEARFUL DISTRESS has been caused in the colony of Adelaide by a series of bush fires.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS who have arrived in New South Wales from the 1st of January, 1852, to the 31st December, 1857—a period of 26 years—amounts to 166,972. Of these immigrants, 123,211 were adults, and 43,761 children; of the adults, 69,200 were men, and 54,016 women.

STATISTICS OF POPULATION AND RELIGION.—The Directors of the Statistical Bureau at Berlin furnish the following curious statement:—"The population of the whole earth is estimated to be 1,283,000,000, viz.:—Europe, 232,000,000; Asia, 555,000,000; Africa, 200,000,000; America, 50,000,000; and Australia, 2,000,000. The population of Europe is thus subdivided:—Russia contains 62,000,000; the Austrian States, 36,398,620; Prussia, 36,033,344; Great Britain and Ireland, 27,488,853; France, 31,000,000; Turkey, 18,740,000; Spain, 15,315,000; the Two Sicilies, 8,611,922; Sweden and Norway, 3,072,820; Saxony, 1,976,034; Belgium, 1,667,000; Bavaria, 1,517,229; the Netherlands, 3,487,617; Portugal, 3,171,199; the Polish States, 3,100,000; Switzerland, 2,101,500; Denmark, 2,068,048. In Asia, the Chinese Empire contains 400,000,000; the East Indies, 171,000,000; the Indian Archipelago, 80,000,000; Japan, 35,000,000; Hindostan and Asiatic Turkey, each 15,000,000. In America, the United States are computed to contain 23,191,876; Brazil, 7,577,800; Mexico, 7,661,520. In the several nations of the earth there are 345,000,000 of Christians (of whom 170,000,000 are Papists, 89,000,000 Protestants, and 76,000,000 followers of the Greek Church). The number of Jews amounts to 5,000,000; of these 2,890,750 are in Europe, viz.:—1,250,000 in European Russia, 853,304 in Austria, 234,218 in Prussia, 192,176 in other parts of Germany, 62,470 in the Netherlands, 33,955 in Italy, 73,983 in France, 35,000 in Great Britain, and 70,000 in Turkey. The followers of various Asiatic religions are estimated at 600,000,000, Mahomedans at 160,000,000, and "Heathens" (the Gentiles proper), at 200,000,000.

DEATH BY A LUCIFER MATCH.—The Paris journals have the following singular and terrible story. A physician, on his return from visiting a patient, ignited a lucifer match for the purpose of lighting his pipe. A spark fell upon his finger, stuck there, and burnt it. The pain immediately increased to such a degree that he seized his incision-knife, and cut out the burnt part. The pain continued to increase, and it was found necessary to amputate the finger; then the hand; then the arm. Next day the doctor died. On contemplating these circumstances, the question naturally arises—Is it possible the mere burn of the phosphorus could have produced such a derangement of the system? Is it not more probable that the knife, being in a foul state, may have poisoned the limb? However, the case is very curious.

CHARGE OF BIGAMY.—Mary Ann Frankham, has been charged with having intermarried with George Pamphilon, her husband William Frankham being at the time and now living. Some preliminary evidence was given, sufficient to justify a remand, and the case stands over to Tuesday next.

CAUTION TO HOUSEKEEPERS.—George Issett was brought up before the police-courts on remand charged with having, under pretence of delivering slippers, falsely alleged to have been ordered, stolen a coat, a hat, and an umbrella, from the house of Mr. Robson, Mornington Place, Hampstead Road. The prisoner was committed for trial.—John Beeston was also charged, under similar circumstances, with carrying off a coat from 24, Mornington Road. In neither of the cases was the property found. Mr. Keene, who attended for the prisoner, hoped that the magistrate would exercise summary jurisdiction; but he (Mr. Long) declined to do so, and sent him for trial.

SACRILEGIOUS OUTRAGE IN MARYLEBONE.—A beautiful painting, by West, "The Nativity," which that artist painted in 1818, and subsequently presented to the congregation of All Souls church, Langham Place, in commemoration of his having commenced his career in that parish, and resided there forty years (all this being set forth on the picture), has been nearly obliterated by means of some sharp instrument. Across the painting (which was on wood) was scratched "Learn to worship God, and destroy rubbish." Several beautiful mural monuments in the church were also hacked; and the vestry door having been forced, some church-service books were damaged.

CAPTURE OF A GANG OF BETTING MEN.—William Butt, of the King's Arms, 2, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, was charged, a day or two since, with wilfully permitting the said house to be used for the purposes of betting.—Charles Haddingham, of Charles Street, Grosvenor Square; Thomas Russell, of Bird Street, Oxford Street, beer-house keeper; and Edward Manning, of the Blackfriars Road, were charged with assisting and conducting the same. Upwards of a score of other persons were charged with being found therein, but were discharged by the magistrate. The first-named defendant was fined £50, or three months' imprisonment, and the others were fined £20 each, or one month's imprisonment.

A CONSUMMATE IMPOSTOR.—Alfred Williams, a shabby-genteel middle-aged man, was charged at the Mansion House police-court the other day with obtaining several sums of money by false pretences. Mr. Joseph Freeman, of Cannon Street West, iron merchant, said:—"In January last, prisoner called on me and said that he had just arrived by steamer from Edinburgh, having been on a tour in Scotland, and that his money was exhausted. He also said that he resided at Low Moor, Yorkshire, where our iron works are, and he asked me if I could advance him a sovereign to get back there. As he was dressed very respectably, I told him that I felt some delicacy in doubting his word, but that I had been so often imposed upon I was determined to be cautious. He applauded my discretion, and said his name was Dr. Felix Arnott Wilson; that he resided at Carr Lane, Low Moor; and that he was well acquainted with the Rev. Mr. Fawcett, the clergyman, and Mr. Wycombe, the member for Bradford, and that if Mr. Wycombe had been in London he would not have applied to me. He said he could not go into a pawnshop with his watch, but that he would leave it with me. I declined to take it, and told him that £1 would not be sufficient to take him to Low Moor. He said it would be if he went third class; but I told him that as he was a gentleman, as he seemed by his manner, I should be more liberal than that, and I put a couple of sovereigns into his hand. Then he thanked me very much, saying that he was a man of honour and a Christian; that he would send me a post-office order in a day or two; and that he would go at once to St. Katherine's Wharf and get his luggage, which had been detained there because he had no money to take it away. Soon afterwards I ascertained that there was no Dr. Felix Arnott Wilson living at Low Moor, and I communicated with the police. Two similar cases, in which the prisoner had assumed different names, were proved against him, and he was remanded."

THE RE-INTERMENT OF JOHN HUNTER.

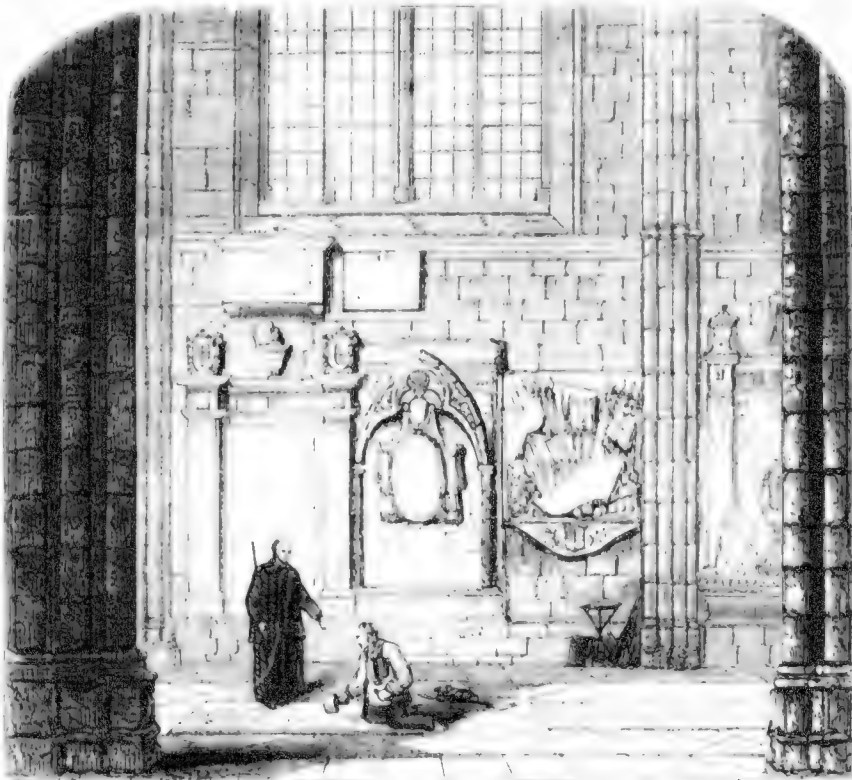
JOHN HUNTER, whose re-interment in Westminster Abbey we this week illustrate, was believed to have been born on the 14th of February, 1728, but from documents lately come to light it appears to have been on the 14th of July of the same year. After the completion of his medical studies he soon rose into public estimation, and became the first physiologist of the day; and while attending to the active duties of his profession, he found time to collect and arrange that vast museum now bearing his honoured name in the College of Surgeons—a museum which the great Cuvier considered the finest in Europe. To this collection our distinguished countryman, Owen, owes his present exalted position, since it was here that his talents were fostered, as exemplified in the pile of illustrated catalogues, the work of his pen.

Hunter's death was a sudden and melancholy one. It appears that two young men came from Scotland to enter on their studies at St. George's Hospital, ignorant of some regulations about to be enforced against students similarly circumstanced as the gentlemen in question. Hunter informed them of the law which had been passed, but undertook to press for their admission at the next board-day. On the 16th of October, 1793, the meeting took place, and Hunter prepared to fulfil his promise, though he was so well aware of the risk he incurred in undertaking a task which he felt would agitate him, that in mentioning the circumstance to a friend, who called on him in the morning, he expressed his apprehension lest some unpleasant dispute might occur, and his conviction that if it did, it would certainly prove fatal to him. On arriving at the hospital, he found the Board already assembled, and, entering the room, presented the memorial of the young men, and proceeded to urge the propriety of their being admitted. In the course of his remarks, he made some observation which one of his colleagues thought it necessary instantly and flatly to contradict. Hunter immediately ceased speaking, retired from the table, and, struggling to suppress the tumult of his passion, hurried into the adjoining room, which he had scarcely reached, when, with a deep groan, he fell senseless into the arms of Dr. Robertson, one of the physicians of the hospital. Various attempts were made for upwards of an hour to restore animation, under the hope that the attack might prove to be a fainting fit, but in vain; life had fled, and all efforts proving useless, his body was conveyed in a sedan-chair, followed by his now empty carriage, to Leicester Square.

The body was privately interred in the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, where it quietly reposed until the recent Order in Council requiring the vaults to be closed up gave Mr. Frank Buckland, a member

of the College, an opportunity of searching for, and ultimately securing, the precious remains. They were found enclosed in what must originally have been a very handsome coffin, covered with fine black cloth, and thickly studded with gilt nails and ornaments. On it was a brass plate with the family arms, encircled in a rich scroll, with the cypress entwined, and bearing the following inscription:—"John Hunter, Esq., died 16th October, 1793, aged sixty-four years." Beneath this the authorities of the College caused another plate to be attached stating that,

Mr. W. H. Gregory, Mr. Francis Maguire, Lord Lincoln, Mr. Hanman, Mr. Thomson Hankey, and Mr. George Bowyer. Only two Conservatives voted against the Government—Lord Hotham and Captain Grey. The pure Conservative strength displayed amounted to 310 members. There were in the House, Speaker and tellers included, 626 members; the largest muster on record except one; that was Mr. Abercromby (afterwards Lord Dunfermline) was elected Speaker by 317 to 310.

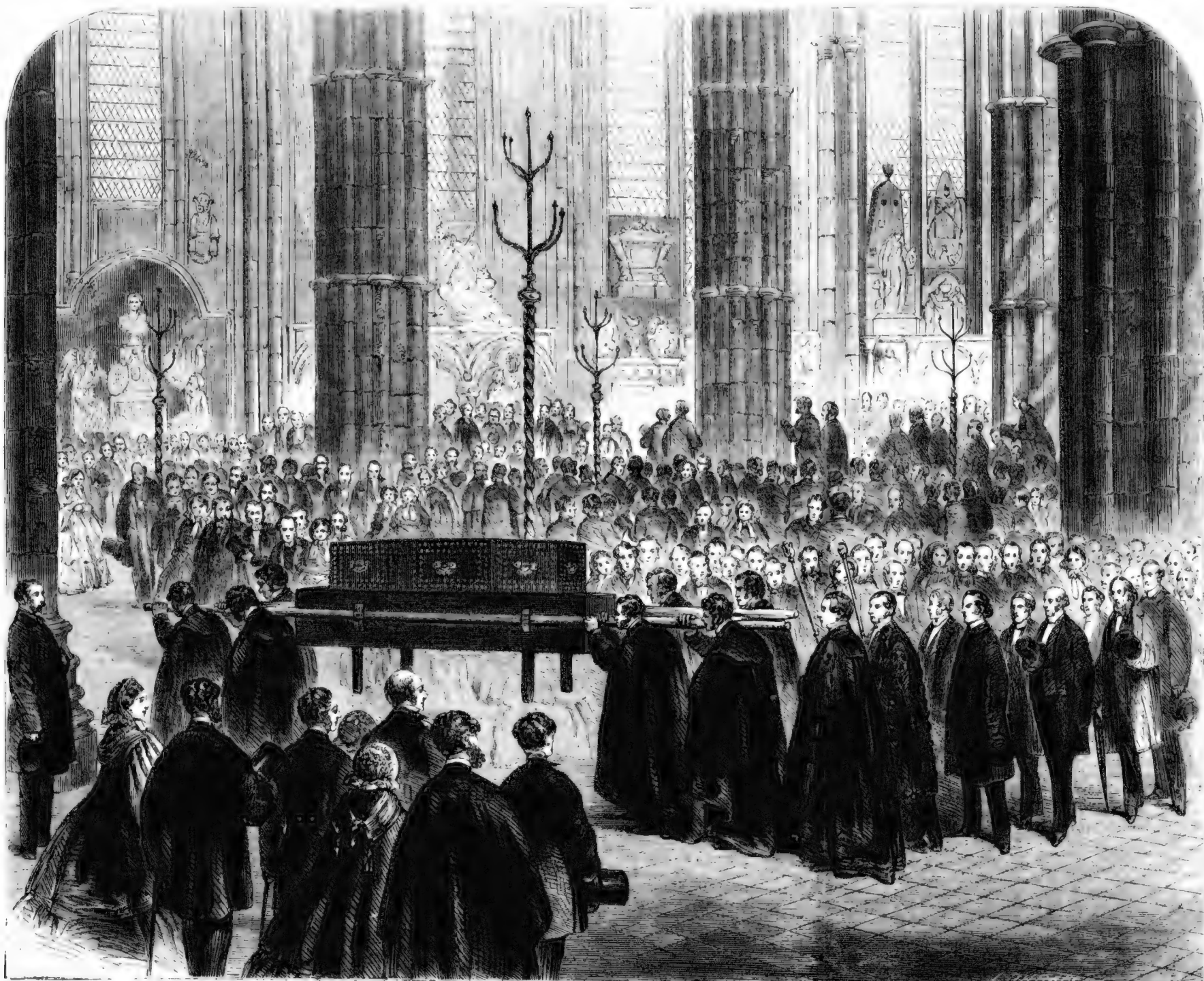


THE GRAVE OF JOHN HUNTER, IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

"These remains were removed from the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, March 28th, 1850." There was, of course, no portion of the service appointed for the dead read over the grave, although it was expected that Mr. Green, the learned Professor of the College, would have delivered an oration. We have already recorded that Dr. Hunter was re-interred in Westminster Abbey, near the grave of Ben Jonson.

The following was the order of procession:—The remains in the original coffin, borne on a bier, followed by the Dean of Westminster (with robes) and Mr. Brailie, a grand-nephew of the late Lord Ducie, and Dr. Clarke, of Cambridge, representing the trustees of the Hunterian Museum; Mr. Buckland (a son of the late respected Dean of Westminster, and to whom the profession is indebted for the discovery of the remains); Mr. Owen, the late Hunterian Professor; Dr. Murray, Mr. Green, the Presidents of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons; the Censors of the College of Physicians; the Master and Wardens of the Apothecaries' Company; Mr. Thomas Bell, F.R.S., President of the Linnean Society; Mr. Storer, F.R.S., President of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Mr. Hilton, President of the Medical Society; Dr. Baly and Mr. Stanley, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Dr. Tyler Smith, of St. Spence Smith, of St. Mary's Hospital; Dr. Bennett and Mr. Solly, of St. Thomas's Hospital; Mr. Chowne and Mr. Hancock, of Charing Cross Hospital; Dr. Ogle and Mr. Tatum, of St. George's Hospital; Dr. Freer and Mr. Shaw, of the Middlesex Hospital; Dr. Radcliffe and Mr. Holt, of the Westminster Hospital; Mr. Fergusson, of King's College; Mr. Gay, of the Great Northern Hospital, and many distinguished provincial surgeons. Arrived at the grave, the coffin was without further ceremony deposited in its final resting-place. A monument is to be raised, by subscription, over the great physiologist's remains.

THE DIVISION LIST ON THE REFORM BILL. The Division List shows that thirty-five Members voted with the Government on Thursday week, among whom were Lord Elcho, Sir Arthur Elliot, Mr. W. H. Gregory, Mr. Francis Maguire, Lord Lincoln, Mr. Hanman, Mr. Thomson Hankey, and Mr. George Bowyer. Only two Conservatives voted against the Government—Lord Hotham and Captain Grey. The pure Conservative strength displayed amounted to 310 members. There were in the House, Speaker and tellers included, 626 members; the largest muster on record except one; that was Mr. Abercromby (afterwards Lord Dunfermline) was elected Speaker by 317 to 310.



THE RE-INTERMENT OF THE BODY OF JOHN HUNTER.

SPRING FASHIONS.

THE first rays of spring sunshine (which this year unfortunately proved too premature) naturally had the effect of stimulating the imaginative powers of the Parisian *modistes*. The consequence was the creation of a vast variety of novelties, suited to what is termed the *demie saison*. Among them may be mentioned bonnets of white crape, trimmed with coloured velvet. The favourite colours for those velvet trimmings are dark-blue, green, and mauve. The velvet is disposed in narrow folds on the edge of the bonnet, and on the *havolet*; the latter is made of stiff tulle, so as to be transparent between the different folds of velvet. The under trimming frequently consists merely of a plaiting of velvet placed across the forehead, with ruches of blonde at each side. Another fashionable novelty is a bonnet of white crape or silk, drawn in lozenge-shaped bouillones, small flowers, as daisies or violets, being fixed at the intersecting points of each bouillone.

At mid-Lent, in Paris, appeared several toilettes in which everything wintry was quite discarded: dresses of Chamberly gauze, China muslin, and Indian crepe lisse, in all qualities and colours. They are flounced, and the seven or eight little flounces are each edged with a flat blonde, and they are carried up the skirt in the form of pyramids, where they are finished off by a bow like the dress, and long ends, or by silver tags. A similar bow is placed at the shoulders, and the sleeves reach half-way down the arm, but they hang considerably at the back. The bodice is low, and a fichu, like the dress, crosses in front for women, behind for girls. This fichu may be arranged in the Charlotte Corday style; but the tie in front and the large bow present a somewhat careless appearance. Medallions of tulle or lace, filled up in the centre with riband, and arranged in slanting rows, are light and elegant for evening trimmings. If they are modified by the addition of a *ruche*, they are equally well adapted for taffetas walking dresses.

Velvet is much employed for evening head-dresses. Torsades of velvet and gold have a very rich and *distingue* effect. A bandeau of this description should be finished at the back of the head by a bow with long ends, finished with gold fringe, or tassels. A head-dress just introduced in Paris consists of a sort of coronet composed of plaited rouleaux of Azoff-green velvet. On one side there is a lappet of black lace, and on the other two small bouquets of the tea-rose.

Caps suitable for dinner or evening demi-toilette are frequently made of coloured crape, and trimmed with ruches of white tulle, amidst which were interspersed bouquets of flowers. For morning costume, caps are made on a foundation of coloured silk, and covered with black or white lace. Green or mauve colour, with black lace, have a very pretty effect.

We cannot describe the diversities in collars and sleeves. Some sleeves are formed of rows of embroidered teeth, which fall over and appear to hold the plaited riband that passes under them; others are half-closed or fan-shaped; while many have zig-zag ruches interlaced, or they are sprinkled with little bows of riband fastened by small square buckles of coral or steel. Collars are worn a little larger, and not so high round the throat—a change which all will appreciate now the warmer days are coming.



THE REV. J. M. BELLEW, M.A.—(SEE NEXT PAGE)

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

The first figure represents a dress of violet-colour taffety, with five narrow flounces at the bottom of the skirt. The flounces are cut out in scallops, and edged with narrow fringe. About midway up the skirt there is a single flounce of the same description. The front of the corsage is ornamented with brandebourgs of passementerie. The sleeves are close at the wrists, and have epaulettes formed of two frills corresponding with the flounces on the skirt. The corsage, which is not pointed in front of the waist, is confined by a waistband of violet riband. The cap is of white lace, with long lappets, and ornamented with bouquets of small roses. The collar and cuffs are of worked muslin.

been assisted to emigrate; 52 were still under the active operation of the society; and 83, who were still in prison, were looking forward to its help. Of those classed under the first head, 117 men and 29 women had retained their situations, and were going on, as far as could be ascertained, satisfactorily.

TURCOS IN THE FRENCH ARMY.—A new element in European warfare is shortly to appear in the French army, in the shape of some regiments of native Bedouin Arabs, selected from the most athletic and agile of the French Mahometan Algerines, who have been long drilled as a local militia, but under condition of service in the case of France having to fight. These men, described as utterly reckless of danger, are known as *Turcos*, to distinguish them from the *Zouaves*.

The next figure shows a ball-dress of white tulle, opening over a jupe, having a tablier front of bouillone. The open sides of the dress are fixed to the jupe by bows of green velvet, finished by gold tassels. The tablier front is ornamented with bouquets of roses, fastened by ends of green velvet, finished by gold aiguillettes. The *cord-on Imperatrice* of green velvet is fixed on one shoulder by a rich gold agrafe, then carried across the front of the corsage to the opposite side of the waist, where it is fastened in a small bow with flowing ends, finished with gold fringe. The head-dress consists of a bandeau of green velvet, with clusters of gold beads and bouquets of roses. At the back of the head is a band of green velvet.

The figure next in order shows a dress suitable for dinner or demi-evening toilette. It is composed of blue silk, the skirt entirely covered with bouillones, separated by narrow rows of black velvet. The corsage is low, and has bretelles of black tulle, edged with black blonde, and figured with velvet. The short sleeves are formed of two bouillones, separated by a band of black velvet. Head-dress of black and white lace, intermingled with blue velvet, and bouquets of white daisies.

The figure in out-door costume represents a dress of moire of a new tint of gray, at present very fashionable in Paris, where it is distinguished by the name of the *peau de serpent*. Bands of black velvet, shaped in triangular points at the ends, descend from the waist down the skirt, and are of greater length behind than in front. The corsage has a narrow plastron of black velvet in front, and two small points of the same in front of the waist. Sleeves of the bell form, with revers of black velvet. Collar and under-sleeves of embroidered muslin. Drawn bonnet of white silk, with a plume of silk feathers on one side. Strings of broad pink ribbon.

DISCHARGED PRISONERS.—The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society held its annual meeting on Saturday. The Earl of Carlisle was in the chair, and was supported by Mr. Byng, M.P., Mr. Melly (of Liverpool), Mr. Monckton Milnes, and the Rev. Sidney Godolphin Osborne. From the report it appeared that the operations of the society have been extensive and useful. It has given its assistance in no fewer than 556 cases. During the last twelve months, the cases of 362 men and 62 women had engaged the attention of the committee: 157 had been employed, or offered employment, in the country; 103 had been aided in other ways; 97 men and 16 women had



SPRING FASHIONS.

THE REV. J. C. M. BELLEW.

THROUGH the obliging consideration of an amateur, we are enabled to publish a portrait of the Rev. J. C. M. Bellew, incumbent of St. Mark's Church, St. John's Wood. The characteristic appearance of this celebrated young preacher will at once be apparent to all those who have ever listened to his teachings.

Perhaps no clergyman of the English church has won for himself a greater popularity as an orator than the Rev. Mr. Bellew. For some years he was a Chaplain in the service of the East India Company in the Presidency of Bengal, and was appointed by the Government as minister of St. John's Cathedral, Calcutta; where the style of his delivery, the eloquence of his discourse, the beauty of the diction, and the general effect of his preaching, were such as to render him extremely popular; so much so, that at one time when it was contemplated to appoint him to some up-country station, his congregation petitioned the Government, and successfully, that he might remain in Calcutta.

Retiring from the service of the East India Company, he returned to England, and was appointed curate of St. Philip's, Regent Street, when his wonderful powers of preaching startled a London congregation; and for some few years he was, as he still is, more popular than perhaps any other preacher in London.

He visited the Holy Land in 1857, returned to England, and was appointed last year to the charge of St. Mark's Church in Hamilton Terrace, St. John's Wood, where crowds flock to hear him; and when it is announced that he has been invited to preach anywhere else for any particular purpose, the church is inevitably one dense crowd. Even on last Sunday evening, at his own church, as we ourselves can testify, hundreds of people were obliged to leave the sacred building, unable to find admission, every seat occupied and the aisles densely thronged. Of his style of preaching we may observe that the subject-matter, which is always good, and very deeply and carefully studied, is clothed in the most poetical language, and the light and shade of the delivery have a startling effect.

Mr. Bellew is the son of Captain Robert Higgin (brother of the present Bishop of Derry), by Anna-Maria, daughter of John Bellew, Esq., of county Galway. On coming of age, the Rev. Gentleman took his mother's name; and hence a mistake which has been fallen into of regarding him as a native of Ireland. Mr. Bellew was educated at Lancaster Grammar School, and St. Mary's Hall, Oxford.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

WE must suppose Mr. Gye intended the first performance of the "Trovatore," with which the Royal Italian Opera opened on Saturday last, to be regarded as a special representation for the debut of Mdlle. Lotti de la Santa. There was a notable falling off in the general cast as compared with that of previous seasons, but on such an important occasion as the first appearance of a new prima donna, certain imperfections may be excused which on an ordinary night could scarcely be overlooked. As a general rule, too, it is impossible for a manager to have all his forces at his disposal at the very opening of the season, and it was doubtless in consequence of the absence of Mario and Tamberlik that the part of Manrico was given on Saturday night to Signor Neri-Baraldi. No company that we can remember was ever so rich in tenors as that of the Royal Italian Opera, and it is certainly a great advantage to have, in addition to Mario, Tamberlik, and Gardoni, a singer who, to a certain extent, is capable of replacing either of them; but it will be a great mistake to put Signor Neri-Baraldi into first tenor parts, except on extraordinary occasions. At the same time it must be remembered that he is no mediocre artist. He sings in tune, and always gives his music as it is written, having too much taste to indulge in so-called ornaments, and too much vocal skill to be under the necessity of altering difficult passages, as tenors of great reputation have sometimes done (e.g., Signor Giuglini in "Il mio tesoro"). It is no disgrace to Neri-Baraldi that he is inferior to Mario and Tamberlik, but it would be very prudent of Mr. Gye not to intrust him with first parts.

The substitution of Debassini for Graziani in the part of the Count di Luna cannot be discussed without entering into the whole of the dispute between Mr. Gye and Mr. Smith in reference to the services of the latter vocalist. This, however, is certain—that, until almost the last moment, the manager of the Royal Italian Opera had every reason to count upon the appearance of the singer whose name is especially associated with "Il balen." Graziani failing him, Mr. Gye at once engaged Debassini, the best substitute that could be obtained. We wish, for our own part, that that substitute possessed a fresher voice and a more flowing style—which amounts to saying that we wish he were Graziani; for among baritones of his own age Debassini has no superior—with the exception, of course, of Ronconi, whose histrionic genius removes him from the category of ordinary vocalists.

It is a curious fact that though the baritone is a most ordinary kind of voice—a voice that belongs to five men out of six—young baritone singers can scarcely be found; at least we never hear of them. Begin to count them, name Graziani, and the list is at an end. If a commission were formed to inquire into the number of years that each of our baritones has been singing, and the number of perfect notes that each of them has left—beginning with Graziani, and ending with Badiali—some alarming results would be obtained. The report as to the history and condition of each individual singer might be given in this style: "Made his first appearance in Italy in 182—. Was first engaged in London in 184—. Lost his upper G [state what other notes] in Donizetti's or Verdi's—. Has—notes left."

Seriously, Debassini disappointed us the first night of his appearance. We knew that he was a great artist, and thought he had still a good voice, of which, however, he has only the remains. On Tuesday we heard the "Trovatore" a second time, and were confirmed in this impression.

Of Mademoiselle Lotti de la Santa—with all due respect to our contemporaries, who, for the most part, have little to say in her praise—we have a very high opinion. She has youth on her side—which is always something—and a fresh, clear voice, with abundance of feeling, which is a great deal. It is said, and with truth, that she has not yet overcome all the difficulties of the vocal art; but surely she can learn. As a general rule, the possession of great gifts argues aptitude to improve them, and certainly Mademoiselle Lotti has been richly endowed by nature. It must not be supposed for an instant, that the new soprano sings badly in the sense in which that might be said of Mdlle. Piccolomini and other much-lauded vocalists. She sings beautifully, but she happens to be wanting in a certain kind of vocal dexterity—if we may use the word. To say that Mademoiselle Lotti cannot sing because she is not quite equal to the execution of certain rapid passages, is to say that a woman cannot walk gracefully because she is unable to run twelve miles an hour. Of late the part of Leonora had been taken at the Royal Italian Opera by a once great vocalist, who sings worse and worse every year—we mean, of course, the ex-"Dira." It has now been given to a young lady, who cannot but improve, and who already possesses a charming voice, and the art—if art it be—of singing with feeling and expression. On her second appearance, Mademoiselle Lotti sang with far greater confidence than on the occasion of her debut, and produced a very great impression on an audience which is not very impressionable.

Madame Nantier Didiée, as the gipsy, was the only thorough artist in the cast. The progress of this lady during the last few years has been very remarkable, and there is now no more accomplished vocalist in Europe than the contralto, or rather mezzo-soprano, of the Royal Italian Opera company.

Of the orchestra we need scarcely speak. It is the same magnificent band which has contributed so much to the reputation and success of the Covent Garden Opera, and is still under the direction of Mr. Costa. All sorts of societies, unions, associations, and other corporate and incorporate bodies, have been formed from time to time in London by musicians, but none with so much chance of success as the Musical Society of London. The list of associates and members includes the name of almost every musician and composer of distinction in London,

besides several of the most eminent foreign composers, from Meyerbeer downwards. The three concerts which have been given by the institution in question during the present season at St. James's Hall, have been distinguished by the most admirable performances of instrumental music that have ever been heard in this country. The orchestra is of the greatest excellence, and, for the performance of such music as the society especially cultivates, unrivalled. Mr. Alfred Mellon has scarcely his equal as a conductor, and the council on whom the selection of the music devolves has shown great taste and judgment in arranging the programmes. At the third of the four concerts to be given this season, the first part was devoted to a selection from Mozart's "Idomeneo," and Sterndale Bennett's concerto in F minor, of which the solo part was entrusted to Miss Goddard, who, we need scarcely say, gave full expression to its manifold beauties. The second part included Schubert's symphony in C, which was not much liked by the audience, and which was said to be held in no great esteem by the executants themselves. The first movement, which those who have heard this symphony will remember by the opening passages for the horns, was admirably played. The second movement, which is full of delicacy and grace, abounds in repetitions, unfortunately, but it is thoroughly melodious, and would be enjoyed by any audience. Of the third we have no very vivid recollection; and of the fourth we will only say that we were glad when it was at an end. The symphony is, in fact, inordinately long, but it possesses many beauties, and we are not only glad that the Musical Society produced it, but shall be sorry if they do not repeat it.

The first classical series of the Monday Popular Concerts was completed on Monday last, when the evening was devoted to Bach and Handel. Miss Goddard played the grand fugue in A minor, by the former, and the suite of pieces, concluding with the "Harmonious Blacksmith" of the latter. Miss Goddard was "encored" in both pieces, but only repeated the latter. The air from "Admetus," one of Handel's thirty-nine operas, was given very effectively by Miss Dolby; Mr. Santley sang the great air from the "Passion after St. Matthew," and Mr. Best played a couple of grand organ pieces, one of which was re-demanded. Although the first series of classical concerts has come to an end, the second will commence on Monday, with an entirely new selection from the works of Mendelssohn.

On Monday, the London Glee and Madrigal Union gave the first of a series of afternoon concerts, at the Hanover Square Rooms. The programme included not only madrigals and glees, strictly so-called, but also rounds, motets, and part-songs of various descriptions. Some of the madrigals performed on this occasion date from the thirteenth century, and none from a more recent period than the seventeenth. The most successful piece in the entertainment was the "Fisherman's Good Night," by Sir Henry Bishop, which was re-demanded; an encore was also awarded to the "Ditty of the olden time," known as "Strike it up, Neighbour!" composed by Thomas Weeks—a quaint, ingeniously harmonised dance tune, of the year 1600. "The Waits," a composition which dates from the latter part of the seventeenth century, and which has been performed at the meetings of the Madrigal Society for the last 150 years, was also sung with effect; and a variety of other pieces were performed, apparently to the satisfaction of the audience. The concert was under the direction of Mr. Land; and between the pieces, Mr. Thomas Oliphant, the honorary secretary to the Madrigal Society, made some interesting observations in reference to the glees and part-songs which composed the concert.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE annals of crime furnish few cases more horrible than those exemplifying cruelties at sea. Few crimes, unhappily, enjoy such comparative immunity from punishment; and the number of cases brought before the public, bear a peculiarly small proportion to those actually occurring. One, perhaps, of the most horrible has been disclosed in the trial, last Friday, of Alexander Mitchell, second mate of the *Bogota* steam ship, for the murder of Thomas Lander. The deceased was a stoker engaged on the vessel during her passage from Valparaiso to Liverpool. The day was fearfully hot, so hot indeed that one of the sailors upon the deck was struck down by sun-stroke. Six furnaces were burning below, and the unfortunate Lander found the heat so insupportable that he was compelled at frequent intervals to rush upon deck and there lie gasping for air for some minutes before resuming his occupation. He begged again and again to be released from his engagement; he offered to work his passage in any other capacity; he even tried by a promise of ten pounds to induce another man to take his place. His entreaties were met with brutal language from the officers, and even by kicks as he lay panting upon the deck. When all other means failed, he was thrust forcibly into the terrible hold, and there lashed to an iron ladder, between the furnaces, at a distance of only three feet from one of them. Twice during the half hour in which this wretched man was thus pinioned, absolutely being baked alive, the door of each of these six blazing furnaces was thrown open, while the fuel was replenished. His screams for mercy, his pitiable invocations of Divine power to help him in his sufferings, were treated with contempt and derision by his tormentors. At length, upon the opening of a furnace door, his head was seen to fall forward, and as he had become insensible, and apparently dead, he was suffered to be carried upon deck, where he shortly died. The two engineers, the immediate agents of this fearful homicide, were taken before a Liverpool magistrate, and were by him committed for trial for manslaughter, and admitted to bail. One of them seized the opportunity thus afforded of absconding. The judge who afterwards tried the remaining prisoner, appears to have differed from the magistrate in his estimate of the crime, and Alexander Mitchell was placed at the bar to answer a charge of wilful murder. The address of the prisoner's counsel showed the hollowness of the case he was engaged to defend. The man had not been absolutely roasted, only done to death by suffocating heat and consequent apoplexy. Was it quite clear that he did not, in fact, die of sun-stroke? A ship could not be worked without perfect discipline and obedience, and if injuries by verdicts were allowed to tamper with old-established custom, and "new-fangled notions" were to be introduced, the days of England's supremacy on the sea were numbered. It happens somewhat unfortunately, perhaps, for this argument, that England's supremacy on the sea has never been so much endangered as when her best sailors were driven to mutiny and to desertion when most needed, by the hardships inflicted upon them and the scantiness of the inducements held out to retain them in the British service. The judge directed the jury that if a man did what, according to ordinary experience, was calculated to endanger the life of another, the offence, if death ensued, would be murder. If there had been no intention to injure the man, then the crime would be manslaughter. The jury convicted the prisoner of manslaughter only. The judge said he must mark his estimation of the cruelty committed, by a severe sentence, and directed the prisoner to be sent to penal servitude for fifteen years. At the same assizes, John Pennington, second officer of the American ship *Samaritan*, was tried for cruelly assaulting a coloured seaman. The sailor had been ordered aloft to grease the mainmast, and in doing this rendered his hands and boots so greasy, that, when ordered to ascend to the royal mast, he was unable to do so. Pennington followed him, driving him upwards by repeated blows with a rope's end, and finally struck him so violently over the knuckles, when at the height of 160 feet, that the poor fellow relaxed his hold and fell to the deck, whence he was picked up insensible, and severely injured. It was, however, found that the offence was committed upon a part of the river within the county of Chester, whereupon the prisoner was discharged, but again taken into custody to be tried at the Chester assizes.

Mr. Samuel Cowell, a comic singer, engaged, by his agent, a public room called the Lecture Hall, in Bath, for the purpose of two concerts. The room was let for that purpose by the proprietors, Mr. J. Carpenter and the Rev. B. Collison, rector of Walcot St. Swithen, in Bath. The concerts were announced for the 26th and 28th of February last. On the 25th, Mr. Cowell's agent received an intimation from the proprietors that the use of the room would be withheld, upon the ground of mis-

representation by the hirer. Thereupon Mr. Cowell's agent, a Mr. Kyle, sued the proprietors in the Bath County Court, for £50 damages upon the breach of contract. The defendants set up that the premises had been occasionally used for Divine service, and that the comic songs proposed to be sung by Mr. Cowell were of such a character that the proposed concert would have desecrated the edifice. The defendants' idea of the sacredness of the Lecture Hall, appears to have been somewhat akin to the sentiment of Goldsmith's bear-leader, whose animal only danced to "the gentlest of tunes." The objection to Mr. Samuel Cowell's songs could not have been their secularity, so much as their lack of gentility. The list of proposed songs included "The Ratcheter's Daughter," "The Artful Dodger," "Clean your Boots," and "Bacon and Greens," all subjects, it will be seen, peculiarly addressed to the ideas of mirth and humour entertained by the lower classes. To show the incompatibility of such songs with the respectability of a building, the defendants' counsel, a Mr. Pridoux, is reported to have adduced the first-named song, and to have "produced shouts of laughter by his style of half-reading, half-singing this ludicrously-comic ballad, especially when at the 'Doodle dee, doodle dum' chorus the Learned Counsel jumped off into a sort of comic jig." Truly a practical method of arguing in an English court of justice against the impropriety of desecrating a non-consecrated edifice! Finding this piece of forensic buffoonery not only tolerated by the Court but rebuked by the provincial auditory, Mr. Pridoux next essayed in a similar style "Villains and his Dinah," and at length desecrated upon "Lord Lovel and the Lady Nancy," which, after having stigmatised as "one of the most blasphemous things he had ever met with," the Learned Counsel chanted forth in like manner to the ecstatic amusement of the rustics. It is needless for us to inform some of our readers that the ballad last named no more contains a single line which, by the most ingenious reasoning, could be made out to be blasphemous, than it does a single verse which could be maintained to be elegant or witty. The counsel for the plaintiff maintained that the fact of the Lecture Hall having been occasionally used for public worship did not necessarily constitute it for ever holy ground. The Judge, in his summing up, directed the jury that unless the alleged misrepresentation, on the part of plaintiff, were proved, he would be entitled to recover, and the jury awarded damages to the plaintiff, £10.

In the autumn of last year, a man named Goldstein, a German Jew, recovered, at the Chelmsford Assizes, in an action against the South-Eastern Railway Company, the sum of £13 10s., as compensation for the alleged loss of a black box, containing wearing apparel. One of the witnesses for the plaintiff was named Goldberg. Goldberg is alleged, since the trial, to have confided to an acquaintance that the case for the plaintiff, in Goldstein's action, was supported by perjury, and that the supposed box was in reality only a tea-chest, which was taken by Goldstein to Reading by the South-Eastern Railway, and brought up to Paddington by the Great Western in possession of Goldberg. This confession was communicated to the solicitor of the South-Eastern Company, and it was then discovered that in respect of this same box, a second confederate of Goldstein had applied for and received a sum of money from the Great Western Company. Goldberg and Goldstein have been taken into custody for fraud and conspiracy, and a warrant granted against the third accomplice. The two prisoners have undergone a preliminary examination and been remanded. It is said that they have been connected with a gang who have for some time past defrauded various public companies. Extraordinary as this kind of conspiracy may appear, it is by no means novel. It is not long since that a certain well-known firm of carriers was harassed by repeated actions for damages occasioned by the alleged reckless driving of their servants. Verdicts were recovered in action after action, supported by a undant witnesses and most exact and truthful evidence as to the locality of defendants' vans, at the time of the imaginary accident. A fortunate recognition, by an acute counsel, at length exposed the fact, that the witnesses were a gang of perjurers living by swearing for each other, and that the only iota of truth in every case was the actual presence of the vans as described at the time and place of the "accident."

We last week detailed, in our police report, the proceedings against a tradesman who destroyed a portrait of his wife, publicly exhibited by an unscrupulous photographer. The magistrate's decision was reserved, but has since been delivered. Mr. Bingham says: "Whether an artist, or ale-house keeper, or any other person, may, after notice of objection, and to attract customers, hang up a portrait of his neighbour's wife as a sign, either for its beauty or deformity, is at least very questionable. But even if the exhibition be a nuisance which the law would compel him to abate, it is clearly unlawful on the part of the defendant to redress his grievance by violence. He must, therefore, pay for the damage done; inasmuch, however, as the exhibitor is, under the circumstances, entitled to no sympathy, the amount must be limited by a rigid estimate. The defendant must, therefore, pay one guinea for the damage, and 2s. costs of summons." We may add to this decision, a dictum of Lord Ellenborough in the case of *Dubost v. Beresford*, in which defendant was charged with a similar act of destruction. His Lordship said: "If it was a libel upon the persons introduced in it, the law cannot consider it valuable as a picture." How can any picture be more libellous than an ordinary photograph of a lady?

Two persons of military appearance, one of them a tailor, have been remanded on bail for conspiring to bargain for the sale of a commission in the army. This shockingly illegal proceeding, will probably be regarded by the public with all that surprise which attaches to the singularity of the offence.

POLICE.

A FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—COURT KINDNESS.—John Thomas Smith, book-seller, of Anchor Street, Shoreditch, appeared before Mr. Hammill, charged on behalf of a benefit society connected with the Order of Foresters, with having received, and misapplied, certain moneys belonging to the society. Defendant had, in the month of January last, been secretary to the lodge known as "Court Kindness," held at the Sir Robert Peel, Walbrook Street, Holborn, and received several sums of various amounts from the members which he had not accounted for. The defalcations extended over such a long period that the society deemed it fit to press for punishment. By the 18th and 19th of Victoria, cap. 63, sec. 21, an Act relating to benefit societies, any officer, member, or other person being or representing himself to be a member of a society, or any person whatever, by false representation or information, obtaining possession of moneys, books, papers, or other effects of such society, shall be adjudged to deliver up all, or repay the amount of such moneys, and also to pay a further sum not exceeding £20, with costs not exceeding 20s., and in default to be imprisoned in the House of Correction for any term not exceeding three months.

Mr. Heritage, for the defence, disputed the liability of his client. By the rules of the society, it was ordered that the sub-secretary should receive all moneys, and not the secretary in the latter capacity. Defendant certainly had no right to receive moneys, but what were the facts? Members had frequently, and against his wish, called at his house, and requested him to carry their payments to the lodge; therefore it was manifest that, as he had not paid in such amounts, the society had no claim upon him, for it had not been in their hands, and the only person who could take proceedings against him was the member who had trusted him with it. Defendant had been twelve years in the society, and six or seven years secretary of it.

Mr. Hammill said it appeared to him that nothing could be much clearer than the words of the act. He thought that there had been great irregularity in the management of the lodge, and added, that the defendant had clearly withheld the society's money, although there was not any proof of his having obtained it by false or fraudulent pretence. The conduct of any man placed in such a position of trust should be scrupulously correct; but the defendant had been just the reverse, and he would order him to pay a fine of £5 and 20s. costs, in addition to the amounts of the cases selected, making together £7 19s.; or in default suffer two months' imprisonment in the House of Correction with hard labour.

Defendant did not pay, and was removed in the van.

THE "ENRAGED MUSICIAN."—Nicholas Marie, professor of music, residing in Somerset Street, Portman Square, was brought before Mr. Broughton, charged with a violent assault upon a young man named James Hinch.

Complainant deposed that on the same morning, as he was walking along James Street, Manchester Square, with his uncle, he was met by the prisoner, who put his violin case on the pavement, and gave him a most

proved the test of public opinion for nearly sixty years. I prepared only by JAMES COCKLE, surgeon, 18, New Ormond Street, and to be had of all medicine venders in boxes, at 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d.

